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Local pg 4

Budget to outline deficit deadline

Another hiccup

TTC driver suspended for allegedly driving impaired

Toronto commuters took to the Internet yesterday, declaring their transit system the "boozer way" after a driver was suspended without pay for allegedly drinking and driving a bus erratically.

It's the latest debacle in a series of humiliating incidents for the TTC, which goes by the slogan, "The Better Way."

First, photos surfaced of workers sleeping on the job, then video showed drivers taking extended coffee breaks as buses idled. Finally, a sex scandal involving the chair of the country's largest transit system saw Adam Giambrone abandon his mayoral campaign.

And now this.

The bus driver was suspended without pay after being pulled over by police Friday when passengers called 911 to report erratic driving. The woman was given a breathalyzer and lost her licence for three days. Police said she did not fail the breath test, but there were reports the driver blew in the warning range of .05 to .08 per cent blood alcohol.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TODD GILLIS/LP/PHOTOLIVE.COM

Sarah Jessica Parker arrives yesterday for a party at The Bay. Parker will be acting as a Halston exec when she visits The Room, the new luxury section at the Yonge and Queen location.

Canadians can now dial up Google

PHONE Google's answer to the iPhone is now available to Canadians.

The Nexus One can now be purchased and shipped to Canada through Google's website for $529 US. One model is ready to work on the Rogers 3G network and the other is compatible with Wind Mobile's network.

The Nexus One is not yet compatible with the Bell and Telus 3G networks, Google says.

The Nexus One was first released in the U.S. in January. Google also announced its app store for phones running off the Android operating system is now offering apps for sale to Canadians. Previously, only free apps could be downloaded by Canadians.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web
Visit metronews.ca for news updates

Tiger to prowl again at Masters

GOLF For Tiger Woods, this figures to be a Masters like no other.

Woods said yesterday he will end more than four months of seclusion and play at Augusta National in three weeks, shielded by the most secure environment in golf as he competes for the first time since a sex scandal shattered his image.

The Masters begins April 8.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Local

Trip to Europe on lotto winners agenda

Canada's newest multimillionaire checked his Lotto Max ticket after hearing in a store the winner was from Oakville — and found out it was him. Donald MacDonald, 78, struck it rich to the tune of $10 million in Friday's draw and collected his cheque yesterday. The retired Canadian Pacific treasury department worker said he would like take a trip to Europe, where he hasn't been for 20 years, donate some money to the Optimist Club and do some home renovations.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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News in brief

STABBING A teenage girl was stabbed while attending a March break party in north Toronto early yesterday. The 17-year-old was stabbed several times in the stomach at a restaurant around 12:30 a.m. Police say she was at an advertised party geared towards youth when an altercation broke out. The teen suffered non-life-threatening injuries and is recovering at Sunnybrook hospital. Investigators say a suspect was identified.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tomorrow's Metro

Comment

Steve Collins writes about the modern Canadian relationship in Relating.

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Blogs SpinDoctor questions potential grey areas of Stephen Harper's YouTube town hall, and Hollywood Rants on the perfect match between the Muppets and their newest human co-star

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Internet stays ... for now

Feds will continue to fund web access through rural broadband strategy

The federal government says it will continue to provide free Internet access for community groups — at least for now.

Industry Minister Tony Clement says the Rural Broadband Strategy will foot the bill for community access sites, such as libraries, while his department's Community Access Program is wound down.

Organizations that benefit from Industry Canada's 16-year-old Community Access Program began receiving letters last week informing them that sites located within 25 kilometres of a public library would no longer be eligible for cash.

But after The Canadian Press reported on the letters, Clement called a news conference to announce Ottawa will ensure those groups will continue to receive funding.

Organizations that have used the current Internet access program include employment and youth drop-in centres, English-as-a-second-language programs, libraries, and seniors groups.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Footing the bill

- Industry Minister Tony Clement said the Rural Broadband Strategy will fund community groups over the next few years until rural households are provided with Internet access.

DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The Beaches branch of the Toronto library is shown above. The federal government announced yesterday it will continue to fund Internet access for community groups for now.

Hundreds of thousands of Honda vehicles recalled

AUTOS Honda is recalling hundreds of thousands of vehicles in Canada and the United States after some of the Japanese carmaker's customers complained about the feel of brake pedals.

Although the issue has no connection to similar problems with Toyota vehicles, Honda admits there is a heightened sensitivity in the industry to consumer complaints because of the public beating Toyota has been taking, particularly in the United States, over safety concerns with its vehicles. In Canada, the recall affects 24,680 Odyssey minivans and 4,137 Element sport utility vehicles from the 2007-08 model year.

The company says there have been no confirmed accidents in Canada related to the problem and it will begin contacting customers about the repair at the end of April. The repair is a "straightforward process" that involves draining the excess air out of the brake modulator and then sealing it, Honda Canada spokesman Richard Jacobs said.

Customers who are experiencing brake problems should bring their vehicles in for repairs immediately.

The increasing complexity of new vehicles and a movement toward standardized manufacturing processes worldwide are also resulting in more frequent and bigger recalls, analysts say.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto to stay in Ontario: Hudak

POLITICS Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak is pouring cold water on an idea from one of his backbenchers who wants Toronto to become its own province.

Tim Hudak

Tory maverick Bill Murdoch says rural Ontario is losing a battle against a Toronto mentality in the provincial government and would be better off if the city were its own province.

Hudak says he wouldn't support the idea of Toronto as a separate province, but understands where Murdoch is coming from.

He says Murdoch is making a valid point that rural Ontario is being ignored by the Liberal government, and points to the closure of rural emergency rooms and schools as examples.

Hudak says Premier Dalton McGuinty has shown rural Ontario the back of his hand.

Murdoch has always been a rebel, even within his own party, and was suspended from the legislature last year for staging a two-day sit-in to protest the HST.

He was also booted out of the Conservative caucus in 2008 for saying its previous leader, John Tory, should look for a new job, and after posing for a picture with the Liberal caucus.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canoeist drowns
A man died after falling out of a canoe yesterday in Newmarket. Police say the man was close to a waterfall at the Mabel Davis Conservation Area when it happened. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Budget to include deficit deadline

Provincial finance minister must include timetable to have the books balanced

Finance Minister Dwight Duncan will include a timetable to completely eliminate Ontario's record $24.7-billion deficit in the March 25 provincial budget.

Unlike the recent federal budget, which still showed a small deficit after five years, Ontario is required by law to spell out exactly how long it will take to eliminate the red ink.

Duncan, who was not available for comment yesterday, has said it will take longer than five years to get back to balanced budgets.

Scotiabank chief economist Warren Jestin said recently that it would take a lot of hard work for the province to eliminate the deficit within seven years.

"The slow growth that we're predicting in the future is going to lead to a very long period of deficit turnaround," Jestin told the legislature's finance committee.

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dwight Duncan, Ontario's finance minister, has said it will take longer than five years to balance the budget.

"I'm not going to become euphoric or excited, but I remain cautiously optimistic."
Premier Dalton McGuinty

"Doing it in five to seven years would be an extraordinary achievement in the type of growth environment we see."

A recent forecast from the Royal Bank predicted Ontario would see growth of 3.3 per cent this year and 4.1 per cent next year, which would mean greatly increased revenues for the province.

"I'm not going to become euphoric or excited," Premier Dalton McGuinty said in reaction to the forecast last Friday. "But I remain cautiously optimistic."

Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak said he doesn't think taxpayers can trust any Liberal timetable to eliminate the deficit.

"I think under Dalton McGuinty we are into a structural deficit, meaning we'll have deficits for years to come under the way these guys spend taxpayers dollars," Hudak said yesterday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harper may meet G20 economic 'sherpas'

POLITICS Prime Minister Stephen Harper is expected to make an unusual cameo appearance at a key meeting of G20 "sherpas" this week in a bid to bolster Canada's agenda for the big summit in June.

Top negotiators — known as sherpas — from each of the G20 countries will be in Ottawa tomorrow and Friday to shape the agenda for the Toronto summit.

It's highly unusual for a leader to attend such meetings, which are usually secretive, but a few words from the prime minister could go a long way toward defining Canada's hopes for the summit.

Officials said Harper's attendance is not yet confirmed. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Junction Triangle' joins city's hoods

COMMUNITY Residents of the west-end area bounded by Dundas Street West and Lansdowne Avenue, south of Dupont Street, have voted to call the area "Junction Triangle."

The vote result was announced yesterday morning after a campaign put in motion by a group called "Fuzzy Boundaries," named for the vague outlines of the area in question.

Though the new name is unofficial, Fuzzy Boundaries head Kevin Putnam hopes it will provide a sense of identity, pulling the community together and attracting businesses.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quilt commemorates Hogg's Hollow disaster

MEMORIAL Like most quilts, the tapestry called Breaking Ground is made of memories.

But unlike many such coverlets, it's not stitched from the scraps of well-lived lives. This one tells the forgotten tale of five Italian immigrants to Toronto and how they died.

The quilt by fabric artist Laurie Swim, which will be unveiled under glass today in its new York Mills subway station home, commemorates the 50th anniversary of an accident that took place deep beneath the ground nearby, at a time when the city's Italian community was often viewed as disposable labour. And when provincial labour laws, which their deaths would help change, did not exist.

The accident happened near the end of the day — shift change — on March 17, 1960. Only a handful of "sandhogs" remained underground on overtime, earning their industry nickname by digging out earth for the water main that would pass below the Don River in Hogg's Hollow, near Old York Mills Road and Yonge Street.

At 6 p.m., when the spark from an electric welding torch ignited insulated cables on the tunnel floor, the men didn't stand a chance. They were trapped, cut off from the western exit by the resulting fire and to the east by a five-metre-wide concrete bulkhead.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

LAURIE SWIM /FOR METRO TORONTO

Hogg's Hollow Disaster, a memorial quilt by Laurie Swim, will be unveiled at York Mills TTC station today.

News in brief

EXPLOSIVES A 17-year-old youth has been charged with mischief after a homemade explosive device made of firecrackers exploded and started a small fire in a neighbour's home. Durham region police say the device exploded in the teen's backyard and travelled through a fence and into the neighbour's house through a window. It started a smouldering fire, but damage was limited to one room. Police say the teen made two such devices and the street was sealed off while the second one was disabled safely. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Activist brings charges against OPP officers

Activist Gary McHale has brought criminal allegations against two Ontario Provincial Police officers who he claims obstructed justice. McHale says a justice of the peace has issued criminal charges against Deputy Commissioner Chris Lewis and Supt. Ron Gentle. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Thieves roll off with stroller

Family's $750 model swiped, put up for sale online hours later

After his $750 stroller was stolen off his front porch, Lindsay Taylor did what any web-savvy parent would do: He looked for it on Craigslist.

Last Friday night, the red double Phil & Ted's stroller that Taylor and his partner, Natasha, use for their two sons was stolen from outside their home, just northwest of Pape and Danforth.

On Saturday, Taylor had found a listing for a stroller that sounded like his. It had been posted at 3 a.m. that morning, two hours after Natasha heard something outside their window.

"He wouldn't give his name," Taylor said of the seller, whom he contacted through email, then spoke with on the telephone. "I tried to be vague with my questions, but when I asked what colour the stroller was, he said, 'Why do you want to know?'" Though suspicious, the seller said he had another similar stroller, if Taylor was interested.

TONY BOCK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

After his $750 stroller was stolen, Lindsay Taylor, pictured with wife Natasha and sons Calum, two, and Cole, 8 months, found it posted for sale on Craigslist.

On Sunday, Taylor and a friend went to meet the seller in a parking lot at Highway 404 and Steeles Avenue. A car pulled up. The man in the driver's seat popped the trunk, but stayed in the car while his female companion got out. Taylor went over, and the woman started telling him about the stroller's many features.

"Within three seconds I knew it was exactly mine," said Taylor. "It had chalk marks my son had made. It was incredibly obvious."

Taylor's friend began snapping photos. Then, as Taylor began yelling at the couple, his friend got out of the car and grabbed the carriage. "He started backtracking, saying he just bought the stroller that morning off the Internet," said Taylor. "I made it clear he was not leaving with the stroller."

When Taylor filed a police report, officers at 54 Division traced the licence plate and told Taylor the seller's car was a rental.

Pram pillaging is enough of a problem in Toronto that an alert was issued last October in 11 Division. After a rash of thefts and two arrests, police suggested that strollers be kept inside or locked up.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Parents angered by HST rules for autism treatment

TREATMENT The cost of providing a crucial treatment for autistic children will go up for some families when the harmonized sales tax kicks in July 1, a move that's angered parents who say they're already going broke to maintain the costly therapy for their kids.

Parents whose children receive publicly funded IBI therapy and those who purchase private IBI services from a registered psychologist will not be charged HST, the government said yesterday. But parents buying the treatment from a therapist that hasn't been licensed by a provincial body will be charged another eight per cent on top of GST.

Laurie Kirby-McIntosh, whose 10-year-old son Clifford has autism, said she can't believe parents will be taxed more when they're already falling into debt and using up their life savings to pay for the one-on-one therapy.

"I can handle it when my son is in meltdown and he is aggressive and I know he can't control it when he hits me," said the 40-year-old high school teacher. "But when the government slaps us in the face like that, it's unconscionable."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Requirement cut

- Some parents don't have a registered psychologist providing IBI because the government removed that requirement, said NDP Leader Andrea Horwath.

News in brief

VAUGHAN A three-member Superior Court of Justice panel has quashed an appeal by the city of Vaughan in a $150 million suit launched by a local developer. Lucia Milani alleges the city acted with malfeasance and bad faith in closing the file on her application for rezoning about 40 hectares of farmland that she owned for a residential subdivision.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Man charged with threatening police officer

A man faces a long list of charges after a weekend tirade police allege included threats against a Dryden, Ont., officer. Arlin Gray, 29, is charged with resisting arrest, causing a disturbance, uttering threats and breach of probation. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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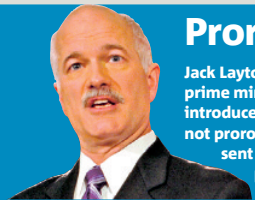


Prorogation limits sought

Jack Layton is asking the House of Commons to set limits on the prime minister's power to suspend Parliament. The NDP leader is to introduce a motion today spelling out that the prime minister shall not prorogue Parliament for longer than seven days without the consent of a majority of MPs in the Commons. The motion will be put to a vote as early as tomorrow. THE CANADIAN PRESS

PM snuffs plea to legalize pot in YouTube interview

ONLINE Stephen Harper may be using "new media" to reach younger voters but he's not going to grant them their favourite wish: To legalize pot.

Stephen Harper

In his first YouTube interview last night, the prime minister nixed the idea of legalizing marijuana.

He said legalizing marijuana would not end the criminal drug networks, which he blamed for corrupting whole countries and ruining lives.

Last week, Harper's reply to the speech from the throne was streamed live to YouTube, after which Canadians were invited to submit questions for the prime minister and to vote on their favourite queries.

Almost 2,000 questions were submitted and the favourites — by far — concerned legalization of marijuana.

Harper was then questioned about that and other hot topics in yesterday's 40-minute YouTube interview, which was hosted by Google Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cannon ratchets up Israel criticism

SETTLEMENTS Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon took a harder line yesterday against Israel's controversial decision to build settlements in east Jerusalem, saying he condemns the plan.

That's the strongest language to date by a Conservative cabinet minister against Israel.

The Harper government has been accused in the past of tilting its Middle East policy too much toward Israel.

But Cannon now appears to be following the tougher U.S. line after Israel's surprise announcement last week that it plans to build 1,600 new apartments in a Jewish neighbourhood in disputed east Jerusalem.

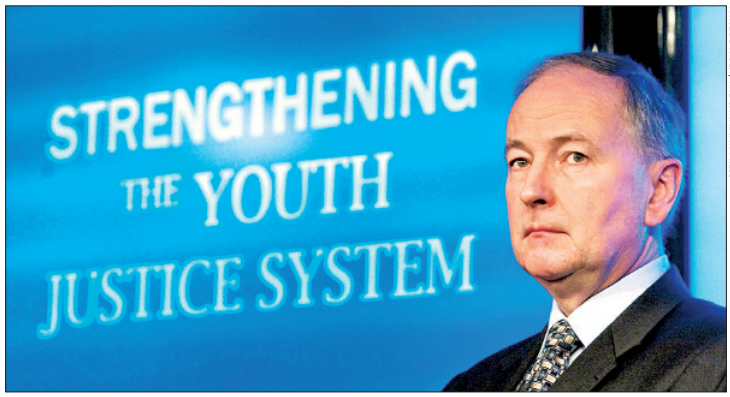
"On expansion into east Jerusalem, we feel that this is contrary to international law and therefore condemn it. We're very concerned with what is taking place" Cannon said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 13

Discussion

- Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon said that the Palestinian-Israeli conflict would be a topic of discussion when he hosts G8 foreign ministers for a day of meetings in two weeks near Ottawa.



PAWEL DWULIT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Minister of Justice Rob Nicholson listens to other speakers after making an announcement regarding an amendment to the Youth Criminal Justice Act to strengthen its handling of repeat young offenders in Ottawa yesterday.

Crackdown on youth

Proposed changes target violent, repeat offenders

The Conservative government wants to tighten the Youth Criminal Justice Act to give judges more power to consider "denunciation and deterrence" when sentencing violent offenders.

Justice Minister Rob Nicholson also wants to be able to charge and sentence youths with violent criminal acts when they engage in reckless behaviour — such as a car chase — that endangers the public but doesn't actually injure anyone.

"This legislation will simplify the rules to keep these offenders off the streets when necessary to protect society," Nicholson said at a news conference yesterday, where he was flanked by the mothers of two youths who died at the hands of young offenders.

"In the handling of other violent and repeat young offenders, the court often lacks the tools necessary to impose appropriate sentences."

He cited the example of a young offender who "demonstrates repeat criminal behaviour, or a casual attitude to the law, or a complete lack of empathy for his or her victim."

Liberals and the Bloc Québécois immediately denounced the changes as a regressive move toward retribution in the justice system, as opposed to rehabilitation.

"In short, the government wants judges to make an example of someone," Serge Menard, the Bloc justice critic, told the House of Commons.

The proposed changes would also loosen the rules on publicizing the names of violent young offenders; would make it easier to sentence youths as adults while keeping them in youth detention; and permit sentencing judges to take into account evidence of previous "extrajudicial sanctions" that did not result in formal criminal convictions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Loved ones mourn man accused of killing officer

PRESTON A man accused of gunning down an Ontario police officer was remembered yesterday as someone with large hands, a big smile and a huge heart.

Scores of relatives and friends packed a small church to mourn Fred Preston, who died in hospital last Thursday surrounded by singing family members days after a shootout with police north of London, Ont.

"The totality of Fred's life will not be remembered ... by one act," Pastor Don Smith told the congregation assembled at the Church of Christ in Sundridge, Ont.

Smith also paid special tribute to Heather Pham, the wife of Const. Vu Pham, 37, who was shot and later died after stopping a motorist on a rural road in the incident that left Preston critically wounded.

He quoted Pham as saying "forgiveness is the only way to release ourselves from this pain and anger."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Man who killed wife disappointed with profit ban on book
Colin Thatcher is disappointed with a court ruling that says he can't make any money from a book he wrote proclaiming his innocence, but his publisher says the convicted wife killer is unlikely to appeal. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RICHARD LAM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A survivor of the Queen of the North ferry wreck waves to people on shore upon arriving in Prince Rupert, B.C., on a Canadian Coast Guard vessel on March 22, 2006. The ferry ran aground and sunk in the waters of Wright Sound.

Navigator charged in B.C. ferry wreck deaths

NEGLIGENCE One of the people on the bridge the night a B.C. ferry ran aground off a rocky island has been charged with negligence in the deaths of the two passengers who were never found.

Karl Lilgert was the navigating officer on the Queen of the North on the night four years ago when the ferry crashed and sank.

About 100 passengers and crew managed to escape the ship safely, but Gerald Foisy and Shirley Rosette were not accounted for. Their bodies have never been found.

"Mr. Lilgert has been charged on the basis that he was the navigating officer responsible for steering of the vessel at the time of the incident," the criminal justice branch of the Ministry of Attorney General said in a news release.

"The available evidence does not support the laying of charges against anyone other than Mr. Lilgert."

The Transportation Safety Board found in its report on the incident that there were only two crew members on the bridge and they failed to make a crucial course correction, allowing the ship to hit Gil Island.

Navigation equipment that would have warned of a collision had been turned off weeks before.

The report said Quartermaster Karen Bricker and Lilgert, the fourth officer, had recently ended a relationship and it was their first shift alone on watch since the break-up. The safety board said the two were engaged in a personal conversation while the ship was on its collision course. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nunavut to ban EU's booze?

TRADE French wine and British beer may no longer be stocked by Nunavut's government-run liquor stores after a motion protesting the European Union's ban on seal products passed in the legislature.

Nunavut's cabinet ministers abstained from the vote last Thursday on whether to ban EU booze and Premier Eva Aariak said the ban could violate world trade agreements, but the motion still passed.

The man who spearheaded the boycott — in retaliation for the EU closing its doors on seal products — says he expects it will be enforced this summer when the territory orders its next alcohol shipment.

"Obviously they're going to check into the legality of it, but I can't see where it's illegal," said Fred Schell, who represents South Baffin. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

SEALING The Department of Fisheries and Oceans announced yesterday it's increasing this year's East Coast commercial seal hunt quota by 50,000 harp seals. But veteran fishermen say there's no sense in raising the quota now, given a market where seals only fetch about $15 each — a steep drop from the record $105 per pelt in 2006 — and had often trouble meeting quotas back when they were pocketing $100 per seal. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Charges mulled in avalanche

The RCMP is investigating whether criminal charges should be laid in a deadly avalanche near Revelstoke, B.C., that they say was triggered by snowmobilers.

A 10-person team from the major-crimes unit is looking into the events surrounding the slide on Boulder Mountain and trying to determine who organized the unsanctioned Big Iron Shoot-Out.

Kurtis Reynolds and Shay Snortland — two 33-year-old Alberta men — were killed and 31 others hurt Saturday when a wall of snow came down on about 200 people.

An avalanche warning had been in effect for the area when three daredevil sledders apparently began competing to see who could race highest up the mountain in a competition called high-marking.

"The aim of the investigation is to look at all the current information and gather up all information related to the incident," RCMP Cpl. Dan Moskaluk said yesterday. "There's deaths involved ... now they (investigators) have the responsibility to see if there are any elements of any offences."

Moskaluk says police will recommend criminal charges to Crown counsel if they have enough evidence.

Given the unique circumstances, Moskaluk expects the investigation to be long and complex. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Likely charges

- The most probable charges in the case would be criminal negligence causing death and criminal negligence causing bodily harm, a former Crown prosecutor and University of Alberta law professor said.

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Landmark sentence for piracy

A Canadian man who drew international attention for illegally copying movies has been handed a two-and-a-half-month jail sentence. In a landmark decision, Geremi Adam will also be forced to perform 100 hours of community service and has been given a two-year suspended sentence. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Truck stranded for 24 hours on ice

RESCUE The unusually warm weather in Manitoba almost spelled disaster for a truck driver who got stuck on a melting winter road.

Police say the 52-year-old, who has diabetes, was stranded for more than 24 hours without food or water.

"At one time, he had a satellite phone that was working and he was able to contact his company and let them know that he was stuck, that he was very hungry and that he needed medical attention," RCMP Sgt. Tom Clooney said yesterday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Commission to launch probe into fatal shooting in Nova Scotia

COMPLAINT The watchdog agency for the RCMP says rising public concern has prompted it to take the rare step of launching its own probe into the fatal shooting of a Nova Scotia man in his home by a police officer.

"There are sufficient concerns ... which merit a public interest investigation."
Ian McPhail

Ian McPhail, the acting chairman of the RCMP complaints commission, announced yesterday he has decided to proceed with an inquiry into the conduct of the RCMP in the Dec. 2, 2008, shooting death of John Simon.

McPhail said the probe — known as a "public interest investigation" under the RCMP Act — is of his own initiative rather than as a result of outside complaints.

"There are sufficient concerns related to this case, which merit a public interest investigation," McPhail wrote in an email.

"To that end, one of our own investigators is being dispatched to look into all aspects of the case."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec Premier Jean Charest speaks yesterday during question period at the Quebec legislature.

No special treatment for burkas: Commission

Women wearing religious face-coverings aren't entitled to special treatment when receiving certain government services, the Quebec human rights commission said in a report likely to bolster attempts to curb religious accommodations in the province.

The rights commission has released a series of highly anticipated suggestions for dealing with accommodation issues faced by Quebec's health insurance provider.

In the one likely to garner the most attention, the commission declared women wearing niqabs or burkas have no right to demand to be identified by female health-care workers.

It said lifting a veil for a male worker to check their identity against a medicare card takes little time and, moreover, takes place in a neutral setting.

"In these conditions, the infringement of religious freedom of the client wearing a face-covering appears to us to be not significant," said the commission's 20-page ruling.

Quebec's health insurance board had asked the commission to weigh in on a number of hypothetical scenarios, including two involving Muslim headwear.

The rulings — which are not legally binding — come as the so-called reasonable accommodations debate heats up again in Quebec, causing political headaches for the province's Charest government.

Recent polls have suggested most Quebecers feel the Liberal government has been too accommodating towards newcomers to the province. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

HEALTH A higher incidence of fetal alcohol syndrome among some aboriginal communities in Canada is making their youth more vulnerable to being lured into gangs, experts say. The syndrome, in which the brain of the fetus is damaged by excessive drinking during pregnancy, can make gang life seem exciting and attractive, say doctors and social workers. Experts are careful to ascribe the vulnerability only to those youth who have actually been medically diagnosed with the syndrome.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Former Obama aide to head UNICEF
United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon yesterday selected U.S. foreign policy expert Tony Lake, who was an adviser to President Barack Obama, as his candidate to head UNICEF, the UN children's agency. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Proposal turns to shark prey

China, Japan and Russia have helped defeat a proposal at a UN wildlife meeting that would have boosted conservation efforts for sharks. The nonbinding measure called for increased transparency in the shark trade and more research into the threat posed to sharks by illegal fishing. It had been expected to pass easily, but the U.S., the European Union and other supporters couldn't muster the two-thirds majority needed in yesterday's vote. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Plane kills jogger

Aircraft made emergency landing on beach

A father of two on business in Hilton Head, South Carolina, was jogging on the beach and listening to his iPod when he was hit from behind and killed by a small plane making an emergency landing, officials said yesterday.

Robert Gary Jones, 38, of Georgia, died instantly Monday evening when he was hit by the single-engine plane, which had lost its propeller, said Beaufort County Coroner Ed Allen. The pilot's vision was blocked by oil on the windshield.

The coroner said Jones apparently did not see or hear the plane, which was "basically gliding."

His mother, Pauline Jones, said yesterday that he was in Hilton Head for work but was supposed to fly home to suburban Atlanta today for his daughter's third birthday.

"I've got a lot of issues going on right now. I've got a plane that's all torn up. And I've got a young man that I killed."
Edward Smith, owner and pilot of plane

Federal Aviation Administration records show the experimental Lancair IV-P plane that hit Robert Jones was registered to Edward I. Smith of Virginia.

Smith was on the beach with his plane yesterday and confirmed he was the pilot.

He said he did not want to talk about the crash and offered few details.

"I've got a lot of issues going on right now. I've got a plane that's all torn up. And I've got a young man that I killed," he said.

The plane started leaking oil at about 4,000 metres and tried originally to make it to Hilton Head Airport, said fire and rescue spokeswoman Joheida Fister.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board were investigating.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAVE THOMPSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Akila Naqqash holds a photo of her son Sahil Saeed, 5, who was released after being abducted in Pakistan almost two weeks ago.

Kidnapped boy released

PAKISTAN Kidnappers released a five-year-old British boy unharmed yesterday almost two weeks after abducting him from his grandparents' house in central Pakistan, officials said.

A senior provincial official said a ransom was paid for the freedom of Sahil Saeed, but he did not identify who abducted the boy and received the money.

Saeed was found in a small village in Punjab province, where armed robbers seized him on March 4, said Interior Minister Rehman Malik.

Pakistani authorities have said someone in the family was involved in the abduction — a charge the family denies. One relative also said yesterday that no ransom was paid.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

IRAN Riot police and militiamen fanned out around Tehran yesterday in a major show of force during a national festival that authorities feared could re-ignite anti-government protests. Tehran police chief Gen. Hossein Sajedinia told the ISNA news agency his forces were deployed to prevent "any event in the city" in an apparent reference to demonstrations during traditional celebrations of bonfires and fireworks before the Iranian New Year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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U.S. warns against Haiti travel
The U.S. State Department is expanding its warning against travel to Haiti, saying that four Americans have been killed since the Jan. 12 earthquake. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chile raises quake death toll to 700

CHILE The earthquake and tsunami that struck Chile last month killed 700 people and caused damages of nearly $30 billion US, according to the government. And the ground hasn't stopped shaking.

A magnitude-6.7 aftershock rocked south-central Chile Monday night, adding to the raw nerves and mounting damages caused by the Feb. 27 quake.

Chile's Interior Minister Rodrigo Hinzpeter updated the known death and damage toll yesterday, saying 200 people previously listed as missing would be added to the count of 500 previously known dead.

"In economic terms, this is the worst catastrophe Chile has suffered," Hinzpeter added. He estimated that damages could reach nearly $30 billion, with insurance covering just $5 billion to $8 billion.

$1.46B
The amount estimated as needed to restore public infrastructure — notably the fallen bridges that are slowing reconstruction and relief efforts.

Higher taxes on mining operations may be one way to cover the public costs, Hinzpeter said. Conservative lawmakers have rejected the idea of a higher tax burden on the country's crucial mining sector.

More political fault lines are also reappearing as Chile's centre-left coalition, which just lost power after 20 years in office, tries to reassert itself. The left-leaning are demanding greater efforts to help the millions of Chileans affected. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thai protests turn bloody

Demonstrators donate blood as sacrifice for ousted PM's cause

Thai protesters seeking a change of government turned to shock tactics yesterday, pouring litres of their own blood into a glistening puddle at the gate of the prime minister's office.

The dramatic gesture, repeated in front of the headquarters of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiava's Democrat Party, grabbed attention but put the "Red Shirt" protest movement no closer to its goal of forcing new elections.

More than 100,000 demonstrators from all over the country gathered in Bangkok on Sunday, vowing to keep up their protest until victory. But Abhisit has rejected their demands to dissolve Parliament, saying only that he will listen to the protesters' point of view and leaving the situation in a stalemate.

SAKCHAI LALIT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Supporters of ousted prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra hold a bottle of blood before spilling its contents at the front gate of the Government yesterday in a symbolic sacrifice.

Reporters asked one of the protest leaders what their next move would be, and Veera Musikapong replied, "I want to know that myself." He said the group maps strategy on a day-by-day basis.

The protesters comprise supporters of former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted by a 2006 military coup for alleged corruption, and pro-democracy activists who opposed the army takeover. They believe Abhisit came to power illegitimately with the connivance of the military and other parts of the traditional ruling class. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Turmoil

- Thailand has been in political turmoil since early 2006, when anti-Thaksin demonstrations began. In 2008, when Thaksin's political allies came back to power for a year, his "Yellow Shirt" opponents occupied the prime minister's office compound for three months.

The minimum wage is going up.

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Current wage rate	$9.50/hour	$8.90/hour	$8.25/hour	$47.50	$95.00	110% of the minimum wage
Mar. 31, 2010 wage rate	$10.25/hour	$9.60/hour	$8.90/hour	$51.25	$102.50	110% of the minimum wage

On March 31, 2010, the general minimum wage will increase to $10.25 per hour from the current rate of $9.50 per hour.

To find out more about how the new minimum wage guidelines affect employers and employees, call or visit the Ministry of Labour web site.

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Syria still backs terror, says Obama candidate

AMBASSADORSHIP U.S.President Barack Obama's choice to be the first U.S. ambassador to Syria in five years went before a Senate committee yesterday and said Syria remains a supporter of terrorist groups.

Robert Ford told his confirmation hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations panel that as ambassador he will deliver "unfiltered straight talk" to Damascus about its support for groups the Americans consider terrorist such as Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah.

President George W. Bush's administration withdrew a full-time ambassador from Syria in 2005 after terrorism accusations and to protest the assassination of former Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri, killed in a Beirut truck bombing that his supporters blamed on Syria. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

ODDITY The Swiss daily Blick reported that a fire in an apartment used for transsexual prostitution forced a naked Swiss man onto a window ledge. Firefighters rushed to the scene and put out the flames, but not before the man was photographed in all his glory. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UN takes tough line

Ban Ki-moon criticizes Israel

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon criticized Israel's foreign minister yesterday for revealing their private conversation in breach of diplomatic practice and responded to his appeal for greater balance toward the Jewish state with renewed condemnation of Israel's approval of 1,600 new homes in predominantly Arab east Jerusalem.

Taking a tough line before leaving for a major meeting on the Mideast and a visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories, the UN chief declared "without equivocation" that Israeli settlements are illegal under international law. He also called for Israel to end its near blockade of Gaza, saying that sealing off the territory denied residents hope and was undercutting moderates, empowering extremists and encouraging smuggling.

Ban said it was "regrettable" that Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman disclosed details of their phone conversation Monday night to the media without an agreement in advance on what should be released, which is normal diplomatic practice to preserve confidentiality and political sensitivities.

It was the second time Lieberman was embroiled in a diplomatic tiff in as many days.

The foreign minister confirmed yesterday that he boycotted meetings on Monday with visiting Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, claiming Lula refused to visit the grave of the founder of modern Zionism, Theodor Herzl. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Positive steps'

• Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman complained that "the positive steps Israel has taken in the last years toward the Palestinians are taken for granted by the international community and criticism of Israel continues." And he insisted that "there is no humanitarian crisis in Gaza."

Japan **No starch, please**

ITSUO INOUYE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Three-year-old toy poodle Mizuho sits in a Dog Wash Machine yesterday, ready for shampooing at a pet shop named Pet World Joyful Honda in Tokyo. Inside the closed machine, a dog receives a service that includes tear-free shampoo, rinsing and blow dry in the 30-minute cycle. It costs about $11.

News in brief

NIGERIA A video posted on a militant website calls for Muslims in Nigeria to use "the sword and the spear" to rise up against Christians in Africa's most populous nation, according to a translation released yesterday by a U.S. group that monitors militant sites. The video on the Ansar al-Mujahideen forum, a website sympathetic to al-Qaida, comes in the wake of a series of religious massacres and riots in central Nigeria. More than 200 people — mostly Christians — died last week in massacres in villages outside of the central Nigerian city of Jos. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Ukraine plans to reject military alliances

Ukraine's new governing coalition in parliament said yesterday it will pass a law against joining military alliances such as NATO, a move that is sure to please Russia while tilting Ukraine away from its previous pro-Western course. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ELAINE THOMPSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this file photo, assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Scoville displays part of a Facebook page. U.S. law enforcement agents are on Facebook and Twitter, like everybody else.

With friends like these ...

The Feds are on Facebook. And MySpace, LinkedIn and Twitter, too.

U.S. law enforcement agents are following the rest of the Internet world into popular social-networking services, going undercover with false online profiles to communicate with suspects and gather private information, according to an internal Justice Department document that offers a tantalizing glimpse of issues related to privacy and crime-fighting.

Think you know who's behind that "friend" request? Think again. Your new "friend" just might be the FBI.

The document, obtained in a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit, makes clear that U.S. agents are already logging on surreptitiously to exchange messages with suspects, identify a target's friends or relatives and browse private information such as postings, personal photographs and video clips.

Among other purposes: Investigators can check suspects' alibis by comparing stories told to police with tweets sent at the same time about their whereabouts. Online photos from a suspicious spending spree — people posing with jewelry, guns or fancy cars — can link suspects or their friends to robberies or burglaries.

The Electronic Frontier Foundation, a San Francisco-based civil liberties group, obtained the Justice Department document when it sued the agency and five others in federal court.

The 33-page document underscores the importance of social networking sites to U.S. authorities. The foundation said it would publish the document on its website sortly.

A decade ago, agents kept watch over AOL and MSN chat rooms to nab sexual predators. But those text-only chat services are old-school compared with today's social media.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scandal baffles church leaders

CONFERENCE The Roman Catholic bishops in Pope Benedict XVI's native Bavaria sought yesterday to deal with a sexual abuse scandal whose ever-widening scope has left church leaders baffled.

"I would not have expected such a multitude of cases," Bavarian Bishop Ludwig Schick, who is hosting his colleagues' meeting at Vierzehnheiligen, Germany, told Bayerischer Rundfunk Radio.

He said he was shaken and ashamed of what had taken place within the church.

"It is bitter and it is hard, but it has to be dealt with," Schick said. "This festering blister needs to be opened up and dried out in order for it to heal."

In Bavaria alone, more than 100 former students of Catholic institutions have come forward with claims of physical or sexual abuse.

Some of those cases involve the prestigious Regensburg Domspatzen boys' choir once led by the pope's older brother, Rev. Georg Ratzinger.

Schick reiterated his belief that the statute of limitations on abuse cases — currently 10 years from the time victims turned 18 — should be lengthened.

There is a debate brewing in Germany on whether extending the limitations would enable a clearer accounting of the abuse claims, which now number some 300 across the country of 82 million.

As it stands, a victim would have to contact investigators within 10 years of their 18th birthday to trigger criminal proceedings; to claim damages in civil proceedings a victim typically has only three years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Romas win court battle with Croatia

RULING The European Court of Human Rights condemned Croatia yesterday for discriminating against Roma schoolchildren by segregating them into Roma-only primary classes. The court, based in Strasbourg, France, ordered Croatia to pay $6,167 US in damages to each of 15 Roma students who claimed their rights were violated when — as primary school students in the 1990s —they were put in separate classes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York City abuzz over health board ruling
After a lengthy ban on beekeeping, the New York City Board of Health decided yesterday the practice will now be allowed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zimbabwe **Citizens prepare for Zuma's visit**

TSVANGIRAYI MUKWAZHI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Supporters of Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe hold a cloth portrait yesterday while waiting for South African President Jacob Zuma in Harare. Zuma began a two-day visit to Zimbabwe in his first trip as chief mediator charged with resolving tension in Zimbabwe's troubled government.

More police for Kandahar

Afghanistan's government will bolster security in the southern province of Kandahar with reinforcements of more than 1,000 police officers in response to recent Taliban attacks, the region's governor said yesterday.

Kandahar Gov. Tooryalai Wesa asked for more police after multiple bombs over the weekend killed at least 35 people in Kandahar City. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment

Blue over Planet Earth

TheWestView

What's 12 feet tall and blue all over? If you've seen the movie Avatar — and who hasn't? — you'll know the answer to that question is the Na'vi, the incredibly cool, nearly naked aliens with cornrows and braids who live on the incredibly cool, beautiful planet known as Pandora, all threatened by the techno-military-industrial (and little) bad guys from Earth, who lust for a metaphorical mineral called "unobtanium."

That's us, folks.

People have begun to notice a strange thing when they take off their 3-D glasses and re-enter the real world after a two-hour 40-minute exposure to Pandora. This beautiful place, inhabited by intelligent (and really tall) beings who have a direct link to Aywa, a.k.a. Mother Nature, is so vividly drawn that the planet we actually live on, Earth, seems like a giant slum.

Moviegoers are pouring their hearts out on blogs and chat rooms, all mourning the loss of Eden, er Earth, wishing they were cool and connected like the Na'vi.

There's at least one group that's not lying around in a Pandora-induced coma. The Ancient Forest Alliance, based in Victoria, gets Avatar and understands its value in spawning a whole new generation of Na'vi-loving environmentalists. Not daunted by the anti-global warming backlash, the alliance has picked a likely forest near Port Renfrew and dubbed it "Avatar Grove."

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Sounds so much better than Tree Farm Licence No. 46.

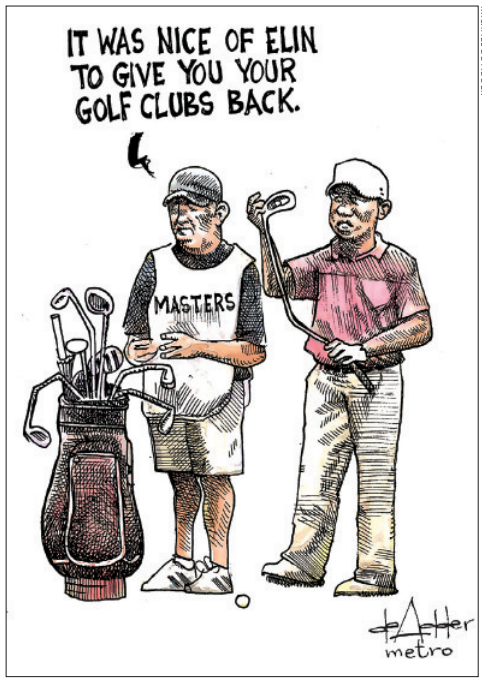
We dare you, says the alliance, to clear-cut this little slice of Pandora on Earth. If I'm the Teal-Jones Group, which owns the licence, I'd send my PR department to the movie to take notes. Can you imagine Hollywood actresses in cornrows chained to trees, weeping for Avatar Grove? The Ancient Forest Alliance can.

It's entirely possible the Last Battle for the Planet Earth will be played out in Canada. After all, James Cameron, Avatar's creator, is Canadian; his art director studied the Athabasca oilsands project for its lurid images of environmental destruction.

And British Columbia is one of the last Pandora-like preserves on Earth. Its ancient forests (sounds better than old growth, no?) protect 1,600 species at risk and 60 per cent of the nation's evergreen trees.

Even the Port Renfrew Chamber of Commerce, once a bastion of hewers of wood, now believes the best bet for the future is to save Avatar Grove for the tourists. If you loved the movie, stay tuned for the sequel — it's coming soon to an ancient forest near you.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Worth mentioning

Wee bit o' green gets ferry mate suspended

A mate on New York's famous Staten Island Ferry has been suspended for marking surfaces of the boat's pilothouse with a shamrock stamp.

Jared Largo says he just wanted to spread cheer before St. Patrick's Day, which is celebrated today.

His supervisors had video that showed him using the stamp. Says Largo: "The one that got me in trouble was the one by the time clock."

He says he planned to remove the shamrocks eventually, according to The New York Times.

Largo says a Department of Transportation judge gave him 16 days of unpaid suspension. The DOT says it cannot comment on personnel matters.

Largo is trying to enjoy the extra free time. He'll attend the Manhattan parade today.

Says Largo, who's half-Irish: "I was thinking of renting a green tux."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Word on the street: How do you like to celebrate St. Patrick's Day?

Jonathan Embree
Toronto
A: I usually like to stop by O'Grady's on Church Street and enjoy a pint or two of green beer, and then dance the night away to a Celtic jig.

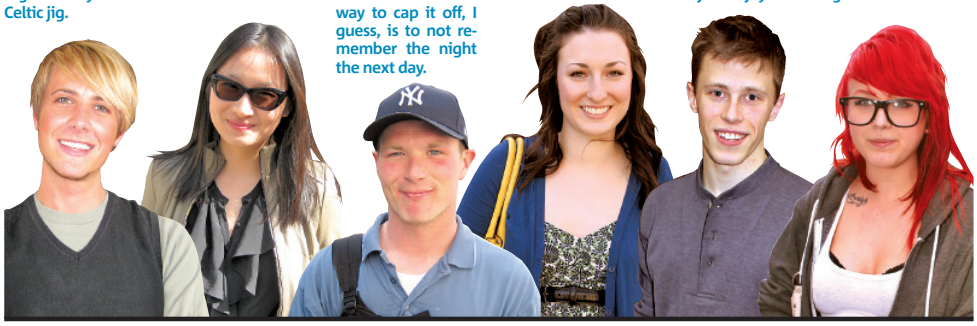
Lydia Guo
Toronto
A: I really don't do anything. To me, it's just any other day of the week. Besides, green doesn't suit me.

Levi McEwin
Toronto
A: With a couple of guys and a couple of cases of beer ... Gotta go to the bar for at least one drink, preferably an Irish bar. The best way to cap it off, I guess, is to not remember the night the next day.

Emma Tuck
Calgary
A: I went on a pub crawl and wore green tights with a green fanny pack. It was awesome.

Michael Machan
Edmonton
A: I like to get together with friends and family and just go out and celebrate. Sit down, have a few drinks and just enjoy it.

Emily Jacob
Vernon, B.C.
A: (I like to) drink. Usually I drink at a house party somewhere. (I will drink) anything like vodka. I like to drink green vodka.



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Pacific Rim Mining deepens its loss

Pacific Rim Mining Corp. is searching for new projects after putting exploration projects in El Salvador on hold following the government revoking its mining permit, the company said yesterday after reporting deeper losses in the third quarter. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

MPs turn heat on Toyota officials

Toyota Canada officials yesterday apologized to Canadians about the safety problems of their vehicles, and admitted they should have acted sooner to remedy the problems.

Appearing before a Commons committee of MPs, Toyota officials conceded they were looking for a solution to a problem involving sticking gas pedals before they notified Transport Canada or the public.

Company officials turned out in full force in an attempt to soothe anger among the Commons transport committee that the company has treated Canada like a second-class citizen. Acceding to demands by opposition MPs, the company decided its North American head, Yoshi Inaba, would also appear with Canadian executives.

The officials faced stiff questioning from MPs on all sides of the floor, including a testy exchange with Conservative Jeff Watson, who asked Toyota officials why they had not reported customer complaints about a sticky gas pedal to Transport Canada when they met on Nov. 25 to discuss a U.S. floor mat recall.

Stephen Beatty, managing director of Toyota Canada, said Toyota had still not confirmed it had a defect in the car at the time, only that it had "an issue" that it was investigating. Under current law, automakers are not required to report complaints to Transport Canada, only defects they have identified, Beatty said.

Liberal critic Joe Volpe revealed that Transport Canada had received a total of 125 complaints about Toyotas, besides the 17 previously reported. But Toyota officials said many were unproven and stemmed from incidents dating back several years, which they said suggested that media publicity often drives customers to recall previous problems they may have ignored at the time. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toyota Canada CEO Yoichu Tomihara appears before the Commons transport committee yesterday.

Recall woes may cost Toyota up to $5.5B, analysts predict

AUTOS A massive global recall, mounting legal bills and a battered reputation add up to a very expensive problem for Toyota.

With new developments emerging almost daily, predicting a final price tag is a calculation that only some analysts have attempted.

The sole figure from Toyota itself estimated the worldwide recall, now involving some 8.5 million cars, could cost up to 180 billion yen ($2 billion US), with 100 billion yen for repairs and 80 billion yen in lost sales. It said the recalls may dent global demand for Toyota models by 100,000 vehicles.

Analysts with their own estimates say the total is bound to climb higher.

$23.6B Toyota's balance sheet remains strong, with cash assets of $23.6 billion US as of Dec. 31, and it still expects to post a net profit of $885 million in the fiscal year ending March 31.

JP Morgan's Kohei Takahashi expects Toyota to take a one-time 500-billion yen ($5.5 billion) hit, including recall-related costs and litigation settlements. He has lowered his estimate for operating profit next fiscal year starting April to 540 billion yen ($5.9 billion) from 760 billion yen, as higher profit margins in emerging markets soften the blow of recall expenses. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

China Shanghai gets new transport hub

EUGENE HOSHIKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A passenger goes through a security check yesterday at Hongqiao Airport's new second terminal that opened in Shanghai, China. The massive terminal and transport hub hopes to help the city handle the 70 million or more visitors it expects to attend the upcoming World Expo.

Pet food maker mulls assets sale

MENU FOODS Embattled pet food maker Menu Foods Income Fund says it's considering whether to sell all or part of its assets.

The Toronto-based fund, which was involved in a massive recall of its pet food products, said the decision was made considering the changes in federal tax rules for income trusts, which take effect in 2011.

In February, Menu Foods marked its best performance in three years by reversing a loss to earn $5.7 million in the fourth quarter despite a 15 per cent drop in sales. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Holloway reports deeper losses

EARNINGS Holloway Lodging Real Estate Investment Trust has posted deeper fourth-quarter losses after booking an impairment charge for one of its hotels. The company said its loss widened to $10.4 million or 27 cents per unit compared with a year-earlier loss of $4.9 million. Holloway Lodging REIT's hotel revenues decreased to $15.9 million from $20.5 million.

Meanwhile, the trust also announced plans to convert into corporation, ahead of a change in federal tax law for income trusts. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ADVANCING GENERICS

MDS to focus on closing Toronto office, CEO says

ISOTOPES Nuclear medicine company MDS Inc. has completed its strategic repositioning and will now focus on cost-cutting and improving its disrupted medical isotope business.

Ottawa-based MDS announced in September it would sell off most of its business units to focus on its Nordion nuclear medicine division, which sells radioactive isotopes used in medical imaging and sterilization.

Steve West, who stepped in as chief executive in January, said yesterday the company closed the sale of the last of its non-core assets in early March.

MDS shareholders recently approved a motion to change the company's name to Nordion Inc., to reflect its new focus and MDS is working to implement the change in the coming months.

West said the company will focus this year on completing the transition and implementing a plan to reduce costs, including winding down its Toronto office to consolidate operations at its Ottawa headquarters. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Processing

- Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd.'s reactor in Chalk River, Ont. — MDS's only supplier of medical isotopes — has been off-line since last May. The facility could reopen later this month, meaning MDS could be processing isotopes again in the second quarter.

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Mega Brands shareholders back recapitalization
Mega Brands shareholders voted 99.4 per cent and debt holders 98.8 per cent in favour of the toymaker's recapitalization plan. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pepsi pulling sugary drinks from schools

PepsiCo plans to remove sugary drinks from schools worldwide, following the success of programs in the U.S. aimed at cutting childhood obesity.

The company said yesterday it will remove full-calorie, sweetened drinks from schools in 200 countries by 2012, marking the first such move by a major soft drink producer.

Both PepsiCo Inc., the world's second-biggest soft drink maker, and No. 1 player Coca-Cola Co. adopted guidelines to stop selling sugary drinks in U.S. schools in 2006.

The World Heart Federation has been negotiating with soft drink makers to have them remove sugary beverages from schools for the past year as it looks to fight a rise in childhood obesity, which can lead to diabetes, heart problems and other ailments.

PepsiCo's move is what the group had been seeking because it affects students through age 18, said Pekka Puska, president of the group, a federation of heart associations from around the world. He said he hopes other companies feel pressured to make similar moves.

USA POOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/FILE PHOTO

Following the success of programs to remove sugary drinks from U.S. schools to cut down on childhood obesity, PepsiCo plans to expand the effort worldwide in the next two years.

"It may be not so well known in the U.S. how intensive the marketing of soft drinks is in so many countries," Puska said in an interview from Finland. He added that developing countries such as Mexico are particularly affected by this strong marketing.

Coca-Cola this month changed its global sales policy to say it won't sell any of its drinks worldwide in primary schools unless parents or school districts ask. The policy does not apply to secondary schools.

In primary schools, PepsiCo will sell only water, fat-free or low-fat milk, and juice with no added sugar. In secondary schools, it will sell those drinks along with low-calorie soft drinks, such as Diet Pepsi. Sports drinks are permissible when they're sold to students participating in sports or other physical activities.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

$70 million worth of drugs stolen

CRIME Thieves scaled a wall at a pharmaceutical warehouse over the weekend, cut a hole in the roof and rappelled inside to steal about $70 million US in antidepressants and other prescription drugs, authorities said yesterday.

The thieves disabled the alarm at the Eli Lilly&Co. warehouse early Sunday in Enfield, Conn., where they spent at least an hour loading pallets of drugs into a waiting vehicle at the warehouse's loading dock during a wind-whipped rainstorm, police said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Durfy decides family trumps role as head of WestJet

AIRLINES As Sean Durfy navigated Canada's second-largest airline through a ruthless economic environment, he was simultaneously dealing with turbulent times for his family.

Yesterday, Durfy explained why his role as husband and father trumped his role as chief executive officer at WestJet Airlines Ltd.

"In my 15-year career of being an executive, I've never had more than two weeks off. It's about time that I spend more time with my family," Durfy said.

WestJet announced without warning late Monday that Durfy, 43, would step down and that Gregg Saretsky, vice-president of operations, would take the helm. Durfy will help with the transition.

Durfy's only plans so far are to spend time with his wife, three-year-old son and seven-year-old daughter. "So, effectively, I'm retired," Durfy said.

Durfy said he made his decision to step down after his wife, Tracy, recovered from having a brain tumour removed four years ago.

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Ecuador.....12.9¢	Fiji..... 24.9¢	Saudi Arabia from.. 3.9 ¢
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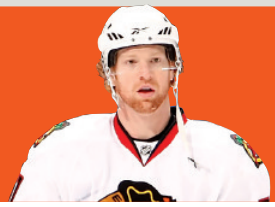

Campbell out 7-to-8 weeks

Chicago Blackhawks defenceman Brian Campbell, left, is expected to miss seven to eight weeks with collarbone and rib fractures suffered when he was hit from behind by Alex Ovechkin. Dr. Michael Terry, the head team physician for the Blackhawks, said in a statement yesterday that Campbell will likely avoid surgery and is expected to make a full recovery. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Sports in brief

SOCCER Jose Mourinho engineered a 1-0 win for Inter Milan on his return to Chelsea yesterday, leading the Italian club to the Champions League quarter-finals for the first time in four years. Samuel Eto'o scored with 12 minutes left to end Chelsea's 21-match unbeaten streak at home in the Champions League. CSKA Moscow reached the quarter-finals for the first time after beating Sevilla 2-1.

SKATING Canadian figure skater Joannie Rochette has been cleared to perform a tribute to her late mother in Friday's made-for-TV exhibition Thin Ice. Her plan to skate in the ABC show appeared in jeopardy after she withdrew from the upcoming world championships Monday. International Skating Union rules state an athlete can't choose an exhibition performance over an ISU-sanctioned event, but an exception was made in this case.

PARALYMPICS After losing for the first time in Monday's evening draw, Canada's wheelchair curling team got back to winning ways yesterday by thrashing Switzerland 15-1 in a game that only took six ends.

IDITAROD Lance Mackey has won the 1,770-kilometre Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race one more time. Mackey crossed the finish line in Nome yesterday afternoon to become the only musher in the 38-year history of the Iditarod to win four consecutive races.

INVESTIGATION A lawyer for Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger says the two-time Super Bowl winner has yet to meet with Georgia authorities who are investigating a sexual assault allegation made against him by a 20-year-old college student. Ed Garland said yesterday his client is not in Georgia and has yet to speak with investigators regarding the accusation she made March 5 in Milledgeville. He has not been charged. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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2. Brian B	AB, CA	992	414	580	994
3. Stephanie Warren	NS, CA	966	405	579	984
4. Shawn Tschritter	AB, CA	983	404	574	978
5. Christian Gagnon	NB, CA	935	390	583	973
6. Kyle Turk	NS, CA	991	411	556	967
7. Cole Warren	NS, CA	976	364	601	965
7. Dennis MacDougall	NS, CA	960	392	573	965
9. Bernie Horton	ON, CA	923	400	561	961
10. Blaine Schlechter	AB, CA	953	386	572	958
11. Myles Dennis	NS, CA	941	363	587	950
12. Feroz Mir	ON, CA	965	380	569	949
13. Grant Greenfield	AB, CA	949	418	529	947
14. Calvin Lewis	NS, CA	982	387	558	945
14. Shenif Dewshi	BC, CA	940	388	557	945

* Results exclude Quebec

markerzone.com metro

'We've got to win'

Change expected after Raptors drop 9 of 10

The topic has been beaten to death and analyzed from every possible angle.

And it comes down to this: It doesn't matter who plays where and when or against whom — if the Raptors don't start showing improvement across the board, a once-promising season will go down the toilet.

So the discussion of whether Jose Calderon or Jarrett Jack starts, or whether the opponent is the Atlanta Hawks or five guys from the mid-day open gym at the University of Toronto is moot.

"It doesn't matter who plays, I've been talking about that all season," Calderon said yesterday after the Raptors went through a rather lengthy workout at the ACC.

"It doesn't matter who starts, it doesn't matter who plays more minutes, we've got to win games. We're upset because we're losing games. We're not upset because I'm not playing or I'm not starting or something like that. Let's keep things simple: We've got to win, and everything else doesn't matter."

For the record, coach Jay Triano has yet to publicly admit Calderon will replace Jack in the starting lineup tonight against the Hawks, or whether he will make any other substantial changes to a team that has lost nine of 10 and holds a tenuous grasp on the final Eastern Conference playoff spot.

But Jack acknowledged change was coming, and the coach gave his strongest hint yet that a move is afoot.

"Possibly, I don't know for sure, but Jose's been playing well so we might take advantage of that," said the coach.

But unless the Raptors start playing well as a group — and that means getting consistently above-average performances from top players like Hedo Turkoglu, Andrea Bargnani and Chris Bosh — any change will have no discernible impact.

"We're not so much worried about Atlanta as we are ourselves right now; we have to get better and make strides," said the coach. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

DON RYAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Portland Trail Blazers centre Marcus Camby scores this past Sunday as Toronto Raptors forward Chris Bosh looks on.

Gold-winning puck headed to Hall of Fame

OLYMPICS It was one of the most famous pucks in hockey history, but a Finnish linesman had no idea what to do with it.

So he kept it.

But now the puck used to score the golden goal for Canada's Olympic men's hockey team is back in Canadian hands.

Officials announced yesterday it will be donated to the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto, with the proviso that it be allowed to travel around the country from time to time.

After all, said John Furlong, the chief executive officer of the Vancouver Olympic organizing committee, it's not just a six-ounce piece of rubber.

"It was bigger than the sport, it was a moment for Canada, that puck represented so many things to people," Furlong said. "It was a top-of-the-world moment."

Game statistics suggest the linesman who took the puck is Stefan Fonselius, who works for the Finnish hockey league.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Arkansas-Pine Bluff to take on Duke

The Arkansas-Pine Bluff Golden Lions beat Winthrop 61-44 last night in the NCAA men's basketball tournament's play-in game. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scoring spurt lifts Leafs

NHL RESULTS

Leafs 4 Senators 1

VS

John Mitchell and Mikhail Grabovski scored 19 seconds apart early in the second period, and Jonas Gustavsson made 30 saves as the Toronto Maple Leafs beat the Ottawa Senators 4-1 last night.

Phil Kessel gave the Maple Leafs a 1-0 lead midway through the first before Toronto broke the game open with two quick goals against Senators netminder Brian Elliott.

Mitchell scored on a nice individual rush and Grabovski added another from the slot after some good work in the corner by Luca Caputi and Viktor Stalberg, an indication of the effort the Leafs put in on a night the slumping Senators were hoping to get their game going.

Although an anticipated fifth fight of the season between Toronto heavyweight Colton Orr and Ottawa counterpart Matt Carkner never materialized, there was still plenty of action and emotion.

Rickard Wallin added a goal into an empty net for the Leafs (24-34-12), who won for the fourth time in five games and beat the Senators for the fourth straight outing to take the season series 4-2.

Grabovski's goal extended his point-scoring streak to five games.

Defenceman Andy Sutton, acquired from the New York Islanders March 2, scored his first for Ottawa.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Maple Leaf Mikhail Grabovski celebrates his second-period goal against Ottawa with Carl Gunnarsson last night.

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

TORONTO 4 Ottawa 1
Montreal 3 N.Y. Rangers 1
Atlanta 4 Buffalo 3
Boston 5 Carolina 2
Phoenix 2 Tampa Bay 1
Washington 7 Florida 3
Colorado at St. Louis
Philadelphia at Nashville
Edmonton at Minnesota
San Jose at Dallas
N.Y. Islanders at Vancouver

TODAY'S GAMES

Pittsburgh at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Calgary at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Chicago at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Atlanta 108 New Jersey 84
Cleveland 113 Detroit 101
Indiana 99 Charlotte 94
San Antonio 88 Miami 76
Chicago at Memphis
Washington at Denver
L.A. Lakers at Sacramento
Minnesota at Phoenix

TODAY'S GAMES

Atlanta at TORONTO, 7 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Indiana at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
New York at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Orlando, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Memphis at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Utah, 9 p.m.
New Orleans at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Ford building new cop car

Ford has revealed its all-new, purpose-built Police Interceptor sedan, showcasing a car for law enforcement that will exceed the durability, safety, performance and fuel economy of the Ford Crown Victoria. The Ontario-built Crown Victoria Police Interceptor will finish production in 2011. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Metro Drive

Cool Carbon

General Motors has announced the 2011 Corvette Z06 Carbon Limited Edition, which will go on sale this summer.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Chevy Volt charges ahead

No surprises in GM's electric car and that's a good thing

JIL MCINTOSH
for Metro Canada

While there's still more than a year to go before its scheduled launch, Chevrolet's Volt is getting closer. From a concept unveiled in early 2007, it's now a model that starts, stops and drives – and I got the chance to do that in Vancouver.

I went less than 20 kilometres at low speeds, but notably, it was what automakers call an "integration vehicle," the first time the technology and design have come together. This isn't exactly what will go on sale, but final changes will probably be minor.

While it has a gasoline engine, electric motor and lithium-ion battery, Volt isn't a hybrid.

Rather, it's an extended-range vehicle that always uses electricity to power the wheels. After it's recharged by plugging into a wall outlet, it travels about 64 km.

Once the battery runs down, a 1.4-litre gasoline engine starts up and acts like a generator to supply more electricity.

That's a major difference from an all-electric car, which won't travel any further once its battery is depleted.

Volt was designed to the 64-km threshold because, as GM says, 75 per cent of Canadians drive less than that each day. In theory, many Volt owners will never burn any gasoline, other than the occasional start-up programmed into the engine to keep its fluids flowing.

While the Chevy Volt has a gasoline engine, electric motor and lithium-ion battery, Volt isn't a hybrid. Rather, it's an extended-range vehicle that always uses electricity to power the wheels.

Driving it is unremarkable, and I mean that as a compliment.

It doesn't feel much different than a conventional car, which should appeal to many buyers: No learning curve, no unusual requirements, and nothing unfamiliar. Press a button, put the shifter into drive, and put your foot on the accelerator pedal.

2011 Chevrolet Volt

Type: Extended-range electric sedan
Price: NA
Engine: Battery/1.4L gasoline

Highlights

- Drives like a normal sedan; no learning curve
- Sport button adds turbo-like boost

It feels peppy, and has a "Sport" button that adds a turbo-like power boost for hills and highway passing. Regenerative braking and deceleration put some charge back into the battery, and if desired, a special setting increases the threshold, with a sensation similar to downshifting a stick shift (powered solely by its electric motor, Volt doesn't have a transmission).

The brakes feel conventional and, within the limitations of my short test-drive, the steering seems equally normal. Overall, it isn't much different than driving a Cobalt.

Price will be paramount, but GM's mum on that until it gets closer to market. Guesstimates predict it'll be relatively expensive, with much of the cost in the battery.

Time will tell, but just as hybrids came within reach of most buyers, Volt and other electric vehicles may be poised to become just as common on our roads.

Audi RS 5

Audi RS 5 carries on Quattro

NEW MODEL Thirty years after the original Audi quattro, the new Audi RS 5 Coupe, which debuted at the recent Geneva auto show, has done it proud with a combination of high-revving V8 power, super fast S tronic twin-clutch gear shifting and a new evolution of the world famous all-wheel-drive system featuring the latest differential technology.

Developed by Audi high performance engineering and styling subsidiary quattro GmbH, the RS 5 is the latest in a lineage dating back over 15 years to the RS 2 Avant.

It features the V10 FSI engine that provides the technological basis for the new hand-built, high-revving 4.2-litre V8 FSI engine that spins freely to 8,250 rpm, and delivers its 440 hp peak output at this high point.

It accelerates from 0-100 km/h in 4.6 seconds and to an electronically governed 155 mph top speed.

The latest generation version of the Dynamic Ride Control (DRC) system as used by the RS 6 also contributes to the exceptional handling capabilities exhibited by the RS 5.

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Hyundai leads in brand loyalty: Kelley Blue Book

Brand loyalty for Hyundai has surpassed that of Honda and Toyota, taking the number one spot among car shoppers, according to Kelley Blue Book. In addition, Hyundai values have been outperforming the car segment average. CANADIANDRIVER.COM

Smartphone way to buy used

AutoPilot

Michael Goetz

metronews.ca/autopilot

A wise sage once opined that, "Knowledge is Power." This prompted another sage to suggest that such power is best used to make other people feel stupid.

True enough.

But perhaps you're in the market for a used car. In that case, you're probably more interested in obtaining knowledge, to transform yourself into a powerful super hero, one able to leap into a great used vehicle, at a really great price, all in a single bound.

We now have a new Canadian company, vehiclegateway.com, to help us bulk up on used-vehicle expertise and muscle — and through our cellphones no less.

But company spokesperson, Peter Davies, told me not to think of it as an app.

"In my opinion it's superior to an app," said Davies. "It requires no downloading. All you have to do is go to vehiclegateway.com on your Blackberry, iPhone, or any phone with browser capability, and you are presented with a 'mobile' version of the site."

Vehiclegateway.com is similar to sites like AutoTrader and Autonet, which offer lots of vehicles for sale, from both dealers and private sellers.

But vehiclegateway.com will differentiate itself from the pack, says Davies, by being the first to combine several crucial elements, such as: cellphone accessibility; free listings for private sellers; an increased level of information on each specific vehicle; a special section devoted to vehicles that fall under the automakers' certified programs; and the first used Canadian used-vehicle site to offer a link to obtain vehicle history reports from CARFAX.

The cellphone access will purportedly help your negotiating position. Davies tells me to picture myself on a used car lot, contemplating a nice shiny ride. How do I know if the price is fair? By punching the year and model of the vehicle into vehiclegateway.com, and asking it to generate an "average price" for all such vehicles currently listed there.

It's up to you then, whether you shove the cellphone screen into the seller's face, or sign the papers.

While sites like Kijiji and Craigslist also offer free listings for private sellers, Davies notes they are not geared specifically for automotive buyers, and both have their share of unscrupulous sellers.

"People are scared of buying a lemon," adds Davies. He hopes his site "will help remove some of the apprehension associated with buying used."

It will do that, according to Davies, by asking sellers to fill out a detailed vehicle questionnaire on each vehicle listed.

While sellers are still on the honour system, Davies believes it should weed out sellers who are prone to hyperbole, and allow buyers to narrow their search.

Another apprehension squasher will be the CARFAX vehicle history reports (available for an extra fee).

Like CarProof.com, it can reveal how many times the vehicle has changed hands and when, where it's been licensed, and if it has incurred any insurance claims for accident damage.

Vehiclegateway.com offers a mobile website that allows users to browse through pre-owned cars on the go.

"How do I know if the price is fair? By punching the year and model of the vehicle into vehiclegateway.com, and asking it to generate an "average price" for all such vehicles currently listed there. "

All this information technology is wonderful, but I would still caution that buyers get a trust-worthy mechanic to get all touchy-feely with any used vehicle they're ready to pounce on.

Any used vehicle will need work. The extent of work needed is what you want to establish — it's your super-human right to know.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for over 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

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READY TO ROLL MAZDA GRADUATE PROGRAM

Nissan's Scratch Shield technology debuted on the 2009 Infiniti EX35.

For Nissan, healing begins with paint

Clear coat automatically fixes body scratches

JIL MCINTOSH
for Metro Canada

Ever wonder why your new car doesn't look so new after a while? It's partly due to tiny scratches, which build up over time and dull the finish.

Nissan tackles the problem with a new paint technology, called Scratch Shield, which "heals" itself to keep the shiny finish longer.

"It's a clear coat that's designed to be chemically soft," says Ian Forsyth, director of corporate planning for Nissan Canada. "The clear coat can flow even after it's cured and repair small scratches and blemishes in the surface of the paint."

The paint debuted on the all-new 2009 Infiniti EX35. The clear coat is just as strong as any other, so durability isn't a problem, but it contains a polymer that makes it flexible enough to fill in minor scratches.

Forsyth says the product is available to repair shops, so if a panel has to be replaced, its clear coat can be refinished with Scratch Shield.

"It's the clear coat that's healing, not the paint below it, which is why we call it a shield"
Ian Forsyth of Nissan Canada

Nissan was the first with this type of synthetic, high-density clear coat that slowly flows back to fill in surface scratches.

It was developed in conjunction with the automaker's research partners, the University of Tokyo and Advanced Softmaterials Inc.

The process is aided with heat, and so scratches fill in almost immediately in summer. In winter, it could take a few days to completely fill in. Warm water will also accelerate the "healing" process.

It's designed for small surface scratches and abrasions; deep scratches and other damage will still require professional repair.

"It's the clear coat that's healing, not the paint below it, which is why we call it a shield," Forsyth says.

"If someone scratches the car deeply it won't repair it. It's the surface damage you might get from your fingers or gloves rubbing against the surface when you open the door, or a car wash with stiff bristles. The clear coat remains flexible and flows to fill in those small scratches, and keep the surface looking new."

Other manufacturers have since gotten into the game: Nissan says that Lexus will feature a similar system, as well as paint company PPG.

"It's part of our effort to maintain the new look of the vehicle for as long as possible," Forsyth says.

"It repairs the wear and tear damage that happens over time. Nothing is required by the consumer at all. The objective of our technologies is to make them transparent to the user, so they just enjoy the car."

Driving Force

Lincoln MKT gets safety nod

RATING The 2010 Lincoln MKT has earned top ratings for frontal and side-impact crash tests conducted from the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Lincoln's three-row luxury crossover previously earned a 2009 Top Safety Pick award from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS).

The all-new MKT features Ford's Trinity Front Crash Body Architecture as well as Side Protection And Cabin Enhancement Architecture (SPACE) to optimize side-impact occupant protection. Also available is Ford's Personal Safety System, which combines combining multiple technologies to tailor the air bag package and safety belt functions to the individual passenger and the accident circumstances.

FROM CARGUIDE

BEST EVER

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Homes wired for electric station

U.S. homebuilding company KB Home will begin offering an option to pre-wire new houses to accommodate charging stations for electric vehicles. The new option is designed to ease the future installation of a station to charge an electric or plug-in hybrid vehicle conveniently at home. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Pacifica big on security

A 2006 Chrysler Pacifica. The Pacifica was one of the first crossover SUV models on the market when it launched in 2004.

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
for Metro Canada

MODEL: 2004 to 2007 Chrysler Pacifica
MODEL: Crossover SUV
APPROXIMATE USED PRICE RANGE: $8,500 to $21,000

HISTORY/DESCRIPTION: The Chrysler Pacifica was one of the first crossover SUV models on the market when it launched as a 2004 model.

Crossovers have largely taken over the family-hauling market today, but the Pacifica was one of the pioneering vehicles that helped pave the way.

Pacifica sought to deliver comfortable travels for families, all-season capability, and a healthy taste of American luxury. Features included heated leather, dual-zone climate control, a sunroof, a 200-watt Infinity stereo system and more.

Are you big on security? Pacifica shipped with ABS brakes, an alarm system and tire pressure monitoring — depending on the year and trim-level in question.

In addition, Pacifica offered a flexible and re-configurable cabin with room for up to six people and their gear.

Many owners say their Pacifica is switched with no issue between use for sports, travel to social events, or as a grocery and gear hauler.

Look for a standard V6 engine on all models. A 3.5 litre unit made 250 horsepower and came with a four-speed "AutoStick" automatic transmission. A 3.8 litre V6 engine was available, as was a torquey four-litre V6 and six-speed automatic combination that became available towards the end of Pacifica's life.

All Wheel Drive (AWD) was on board selected models, too.

WHAT OWNERS LIKE: Pacifica owners tended to rate comfort, performance, driving dynamics and styling the most highly. Flexibility and versatility for virtually any chore were highly appreciated, too. Finally, many owners say they enjoy a "safe and solid" feel when driving.

WHAT OWNERS HATE: Pacifica owner complaints typically centre around fuel consumption. If you don't need the added traction of all wheel drive, opting for a Pacifica without it can help save fuel.

COMMON ISSUES: On a test-drive, kill the stereo and both listen to and "feel" the Pacifica's front end. Listen closely for any metallic clunking, popping or grinding sounds as you drive the vehicle over bumps or uneven surfaces. If you hear any, the model you're considering is probably due for some front-end work.

Pop the hood and have a listen to the engine start up from cold. Loud or abnormal ticking sounds from the top of the engine could indicate a known problem with valves on certain models.

If you're concerned or unsure about the sound, be sure to ask a mechanic to have a look.

You'll also want to ensure the transmission shifts smoothly on any model, noting any roughness or hesitation during gear changes. Transmission glitches tended to be of the electronic variety, which are relatively simple to fix.

Finally, ensure the Pacifica you're considering has had all required recall work carried out to correct any safety-related issues.

THE VERDICT: Pacifica shoppers will benefit from slightly below-average resale values, but they should shop carefully due to slightly below-average reliability. A dealer-certified used model with some warranty remaining is probably your best bet here.

vw.ca/pure

Introducing the almost all-new 2005 to 2008 Jetta.
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Das Auto.

Model shown with optional features. *Limited time financing offer available on approved credit through Volkswagen Finance. 0% APR financing pertains to finance terms up to 24 months only on 2005 to 2008 M.Y. Certified Pre-owned Jettas. Rates start at 2.9% for up to 60 months for other models. Financing example: $15,000 financed at 0% for 24 months, monthly payment is $625, cost of borrowing is $0 for a total obligation of $15,000.00. $15,000 financed at 2.9% for 60 months, monthly payment is $268.86, cost of borrowing is $1,131.86 for a total obligation of $16,131.86. Dealer may sell for less. Down payment may be required. PPSA, license, insurance, registration and applicable taxes are extra. Offer ends March 31, 2010. **$500 rebate for recent college or university graduates. Certain conditions apply. †2-year/40,000 km (whichever comes first) limited warranty. See dealers for additional details about this warranty. ††2-year, 24-hour roadside assistance provided by Sykes Assistance Services Corporation. Visit vw.ca or your Volkswagen dealer for details. "Volkswagen", the Volkswagen logo and "Jetta" are registered trademarks of Volkswagen AG. "Das Auto & Design" is a trademark of Volkswagen AG. "CarProof" is a registered trademark of 3823202 Canada Inc. o/a LienQuest.com. © 2010 Volkswagen Canada.

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GT model shown

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GT model shown

Canada's Best-Selling Passenger Car of 2010‡

2010 MAZDA *3* SPORT

0% purchase financing† up to 60 months | well equipped from $18,390* | Offer Includes: Freight.....$840 P.D.E.....$555

TOP SAFETY PICK 2009 For DSC-equipped models▼ | Top 10 Best Retained Value Award by Canadian Black Book | BEST NEW CAR OVER $21k | ★★★★★ HIGHEST GOVERNMENT FRONTAL CRASH SAFETY RATING▲

GT model shown Three-row seating for six

2010 MAZDA *5*

★★★★★ HIGHEST GOVERNMENT FRONTAL CRASH SAFETY RATING▲ | 2010 ecoENERGY VEHICLE AWARD♦

0% purchase financing† up to 60 months | well equipped from $22,090* | Offer Includes: Freight.....$1,060 P.D.E.....$535

GT-V6 model shown

2010 MAZDA *6*

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GT-V6 model shown

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†0% APR Purchase Financing is available on all new 2010 Mazda vehicles. Based on a representative agreement using an offered pricing of $17,390/$18,390/$22,090/$24,790/$25,045 for the new 2010 Mazda3 GX (D4XS50AA00)/2010 Mazda3 Sport GX (D5XS50AA00)/2010 Mazda5 GS (E6SD50AA00)/2010 Mazda6 GS-I4 (G4SY60AA00)/2010 Mazda Tribute GX-I4 2WD (WXXD50AA00) with a financed amount of $15,000/$15,000/$20,000/$20,000/$25,000, the cost of borrowing for a 60/60/60/60/72-month term is $0, monthly payment is $250.00/$250.00/$333.33/$333.33/$347.22, total finance obligation is $15,000/$15,000/$20,000/$20,000/$25,000. *Offered Pricing for new 2010 Mazda3 GX (D4XS50AA00)/2010 Mazda3 Sport GX (D5XS50AA00)/2010 Mazda5 GS (E6SD50AA00)/2010 Mazda6 GS-I4 (G4SY60AA00)/2010 Mazda Tribute GX-I4 2WD (WXXD50AA00) is $17,390/$18,390/$22,090/$24,790/$25,045. As shown, MSRP for 2010 Mazda3 GT (D4TY60AB00)/2010 Mazda3 Sport GT (D5TY60AB00)/2010 Mazda5 GT (E6TD50AA00)/2010 Mazda6 GT-V6 (G4TB80AA00)/2010 Mazda Tribute GT-V6 AWD (WXTZ70AA00) is $25,285/$26,285/$25,890/$38,290/$36,590. **No payments for 90 days applies to purchase finance offers on new in-stock 2010 Mazdas. The purchaser will repay principal monthly over the term of the contract, commencing 90 days after contract date. $65 PPSA, $5 OMVIC transaction fee, licence, insurance, taxes, down payment and other dealer charges may be required at the time of purchase. ▲Based on 2010 fuel consumption ratings published by Natural Resources Canada. ♦2010 Mazda3/2010 Mazda3 Sport/2010 Mazda5/2010 Mazda6/2010 Mazda Tribute models tested with standard side-impact air bags (SABs). U.S. Government star ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (www.safercar.gov). ▼Based on Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. ‡ Canada's Best-Selling Passenger Car of 2010 – Based on DesRosiers Automotive reports for period of January and ending February of 2010. Offers available from March 2, 2010 until March 31, 2010. All offers exclude $65 PPSA, $5 OMVIC transaction fee, licence, insurance, other taxes, down payment. Other dealer charges may be required at the time of purchase. Lease and Finance on approved credit for qualified customers only. Dealer may sell for less. Dealer order may be necessary. Visit mazda.ca or see your dealer for complete details.

Americans lean toward domestic: Survey

Many Americans are now more likely to buy domestic vehicles than Japanese due to the Toyota recalls, according to a new survey by Q&A Research Inc. The survey found that 38 per cent of buyers have a more negative opinion of Toyota in the aftermath of the recall announcement. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jag XK got sport spirit

The 2010 Jaguar XK is visibly longer than the XK8 it replaces.

JIM ROBINSON
for Metro Canada

What a civilized way to travel!

For many, Jaguar is synonymous with British sports cars.

Always fast, always stylish and always with the best mix of wood veneers and fine leathers, it is hard to beat a Jaguar XK and the 2010 XK Portfolio is no exception.

The previous model was known as the XK8 and was on the market for 10 years. It was a huge step forward from the 12-cylinder XJS, an over-engined, under-engineered bouffant sportster that was a hollow version of the great XK sportscars of the 1950s and 1960s.

The new XK is designed by Ian Callum, another person I am proud to call a friend. He is refreshingly candid and is, to my mind, the heart, soul and public face of Jaguar.

The 2010 car is much longer than the XK8 and you can't help but notice this sitting behind the steering wheel with the hood stretching out before you. But that's what a real sports car is all about; big engine out front and drive to the rear.

All the Jag styling cues are there like the muscular fenders over the rear wheels and the oval, grateless grille at the nose. The difference is the new XK looks almost majestic.

The XK lineup is simple with a choice of coupe or convertible XK Portfolio with normally aspirated 5.0-litre V8 with starting prices of $96,500 (Coupe) and $103,200 (Convertible) respectively, excluding $1,270 destination and delivery charge.

The 2010 XKR with its supercharged V8 engine will start at $107,000 (Coupe) and $114,000 (Convertible) respectively.

Tested here is the XK Portfolio Convertible with $300 heated windshield and shipping charge for an as tested price of $104,770.

Beside the more gracious shape, it's the new powertrain options that are at the heart of the changes for 2010 model year.

The new AJ-V8 GEN III direct-injection 5.0-litre engines are the most advanced engines Jaguar has ever produced, each offering significant increases in performance and impressive fuel economy. Both deliver significantly more torque and power than the previous generation of engines.

In the XK Portfolio, it produces 385 hp and 380 lb/ft of torque. With the standard six-speed ZF automatic transmission, acceleration from 0-100 km/h is 5.5 seconds for the Coupe and 5.6 seconds in the Convertible. Estimated fuel consumption is 17.1/8.0/11.2L/100 km city/highway/combined.

The supercharged XKR takes the same engine and belts out 510 hp and 461 lb/ft of torque with a 0-100 km/h time of 4.8 seconds for either Coupe or Convertible. Fuel rating estimates are 18.9/8.6/12.3L/100 km city/highway/combined.

The acceleration times are good as these cars are hardly lightweights. The XK Portfolio tested here weigh in at 2,120 kg or a hefty 4,674 lb.

The V8 has a wonderful burble to the exhaust very much like the Mustang fastback that Steve McQueen drove in Bullitt. Hammer the pedal and it has an almost basso howl that is unlike anything I can remember.

All the while, the cabin is a delight in terms of fit, finish and materials. Jaguar has always done this right by staying away from plastics.

2010 Jaguar XK

Type: Premium luxury sports coupe/convertible
Price: $96,500(Coupe), $103,200 (Convertible), Convertible as tested $104,770
Engine: 5.0-litre DOHC V6 (385 hp, 380 lb/ft)

Highlights

- Jaguar's traditional muscular styling cues
- Luxurious interior

Choosing best driving school for young ones

Driving is one of the most enjoyable activities you will experience. But it is without a doubt one of the most dangerous, as well. Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for Canadians under the age of 25.

"You only learn to drive once," says Peter Christianson, president of Young Drivers of Canada.

"You might as well do it right the first time."

If your teen is ready to drive, shop around for a high-quality driver training program.

Here are some considerations when choosing a driving school:

MTO-approved: Ensure the driving school program is approved by the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario.

Defensive driving techniques: Look for a driving school that will teach defensive driving techniques that will help avoid every single type of collision. A good school teaches collision avoidance skills which enable drivers to detect potentially hazardous situations.

Instructor certification: Find out if the school's instructors have taken an annual recertification to maintain their level of skill.

Private in-vehicle classes: Consider a school that offers private in-vehicle training, where there is only one student with the instructor at all times.

Emergency manouevres: Check if the driving school teaches life saving techniques, such as rear crash avoidance, emergency braking, emergency swerving techniques, and head-on collision avoidance. These should be practiced in vehicles, not just discussed in class.

Learn at your own pace: Everyone learns differently. Knowing this, Young Drivers of Canada has launched YD e-Experience, a new, interactive online training session that allows novice drivers to learn at their own pace from their home computer. The 10-hour online training features interactive videos, 3-D animations, photos, graphics and voice-over narrative.

YD e-Experience is part of the YD Novice Driving course, which is a ministry-approved beginner driver education (BDE) course. The other course components consist of 20 hours of in-class instruction that includes state-of-the-art HD video footage and 10 hours of private in-car training with only one student in the vehicle with the instructor.

NEWS CANADA

Oldest flying car on sale
What is believed to be the world's oldest "flying car" is for sale. The antique was built in 1934 by Frank Skroback. Red Baron's Antiques, which is selling the plane, says it is 21 feet long, and each wing has a 7-foot span. WIRED.COM

Geneva's wild side

No dearth of wow factors at European auto show

EUAN SEY
Metro World News

Walking around the comparatively reserved halls of the Tokyo Motor Show last December —traditionally the wildest and most out-there event on the motoring calendar — it looked like the glamour and craziness were gone for good from the car industry.

This month's Geneva auto show paid to our fears however, playing host to a number of truly weird and wonderful vehicles that proved there's plenty of life left in the party.

For once, the award for outrageousness didn't go to legendary Swiss innovator Rinspeed, whose back catalogue includes a car that hovers over water, a submersible car and a vehicle that changes shape and size at the touch of a button.

The Alfa Romeo Giuletta, top, and the Volvo S60 made their debuts at the Geneva auto show

Instead it belonged to Italian coachbuilder Bertone — a historic company that has always walked the line between classical Italian styling and truly out-there design. Centre stage at its stand this year was the Pandion — a radical future sports car concept with nine-foot-long scissor doors and an interior whose tree-root-like structure was inspired by the Hollywood blockbuster, Avatar.

Accompanied by an equally futuristic-looking model perched precariously on vertigo-inspiring stiletto boots, the Pandion could be seen from all the way across the Palexpo pavilion when its doors were up.

Citroën wasn't willing to let observers poke around the inside of its Survolt concept, but the car's exterior still had crowds muttering in amazement.

The latest in a long line of superb designs by the unconventional French firm, it combines electric power with a stunning coupe body that looks like it's time-travelled from the starting grid of the 2025 Le Mans 24 Hours race.

Elsewhere we were treated to flamboyant yacht-inspired concepts — replete with beautiful wood interiors and sculptural-looking exteriors — in the form of Peugeot's SR1 and the Mercedes-Benz F800 Style.

Most encouragingly of all, the daring design at Geneva wasn't restricted to concepts, as is often the case.

Production cars like Nissan's new Juke crossover and the Alfa Romeo Giuletta demonstrate that manufacturers are increasingly willing to take risks in order to make their mark.

If you do your homework before purchasing a fuel-efficient car, you can watch your savings add up and your emissions go down.

6 tips for buying fuel-efficient vehicles

When it comes to purchasing a new vehicle, you might want to consider buying the most fuel-efficient one that meets your needs. Follow these tips to help you make an informed decision:

- Do some research before you leave home — The Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) website, vehicles.nrcan.gc.ca, lets you compare the fuel consumption of various makes and models of vehicles for a year.

- Check out the EnerGuide Label — Compare vehicles using the EnerGuide label that is found on all new cars. The label shows city and highway fuel consumption ratings and an estimated annual fuel cost for that particular vehicle. The values may not be perfect but they're a start.

- Choose a vehicle that fits your everyday needs in terms of size and power — Put some serious thought into your space and cargo needs — do you really need a minivan when a compact would do? Passenger cars with smaller engines tend to deliver better fuel economy than those with larger engines. Keep in mind horsepower levels have doubled over the past two decades and the power available in today's subcompact cars exceeds that of many midsize sedans of the mid-1980s.

- Choose a manual instead of an automatic transmission — Look for the transmission option that minimizes fuel consumption. Generally speaking, manuals will use less fuel, saving up to 100 litres a year.

- Two-wheel drive vs. four-wheel drive — The added weight and drive train losses you get with four-wheel and 'all-wheel' drive systems increase fuel consumption. Although all-wheel drive can offer better traction, it doesn't assist in turning or braking; there is no substitute for safe driving habits.

- Think about your extras — Accessories and power features can be a big drag on an engine, increasing fuel consumption. NEWS CANADA

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Ford offers SYNC security
Ford recently said it will offer a suite of security features to protect the personal information of millions of Ford owners who use its in-car SYNC system. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Actor Hollyman's fine Accent

MyDrive

Heather Buchan
metronews.ca/mydrive

Name: Ryan Hollyman

What's he famous for: Acting. Currently starring in Theatrefront's production of The Mill, Part Three: The Woods, as the French settler Charles, which opens on Saturday. He's also appeared on Flashpoint and The Border, and is the voice of "Snap" on the Rice Krispies commercials.

What he drives: A 2004 black Hyundai Accent

Ryan Hollyman has appeared on Flashpoint and The Border. He drives a 2004 Hyundai Accent.

Why the Accent? About a year-and-a-half ago, a friend of mine was moving to Hong Kong. He knew my wife and I were looking for an economy car and he asked if we were interested in buying his Hyundai Accent. It had about 40,000 km on it and it was in perfect condition and he's a really good friend of mine, so I knew I could trust him. And he gave me a really great price, so I pretty much bought it outright from him that day. It's been great ever since. We've also been looking into buying a Toyota Prius as our next car, but with the news right now … yeah, I think we'll delay that for a while.

Have you taken any road trips? We've taken it to Sault St. Marie a few times and we've taken it to Montreal a couple times. It's great. I got some new winter tires this year. It made a huge difference. The car's pretty good anyways. It handles really well for an economy car, but the tires really help.

What type of driver are you: Considering I was just in the traffic place today (laughs) … No, I like to think I'm a good, conscious driver. Unfortunately I got caught for a rolling stop sign. I don't know if I should be talking about this, but I'm disputing it and the policeman said I should dispute it as well. It was a really icy day and I slid through the stop sign. The police officer was there and said it was still an infraction, but I should fight it.

"(The Hyundai Accent) handles really well for an economy car."

Dream car: A '63 Corvette Coupe is my all-time favourite-looking car.

Heather Buchan is a Toronto-based journalist who has worked at Homemakers, Canadian Living, Canadian House & Home and, most recently, Hello! Canada, where she cut her teeth in the world of celebrities.

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Best Value around! Powe Group, alum. wheels, V8, auto, A/C, ABS, air bags, cruise control , CD player and more! PLUS $1,000 in no charge accessories!
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Former St. Clair student claims college did little to stop bullying

A former student at St. Clair College's Thames campus in Chatham has filed a human rights complaint against the college over alleged bullying. The student, who dropped out before last Christmas, says she feels the college did not do enough to stop the harassment she claims she was subjected to. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Student suing over expulsion

According to the Montreal Gazette, a Concordia University engineering student has gone to court to overturn the university's decision to expel him for allegedly forging a professor's signature to sign out a piece of equipment for a class project. The student has asked the Quebec Superior Court for a safeguard order to temporarily halt the expulsion in order for him to complete his courses and graduate. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

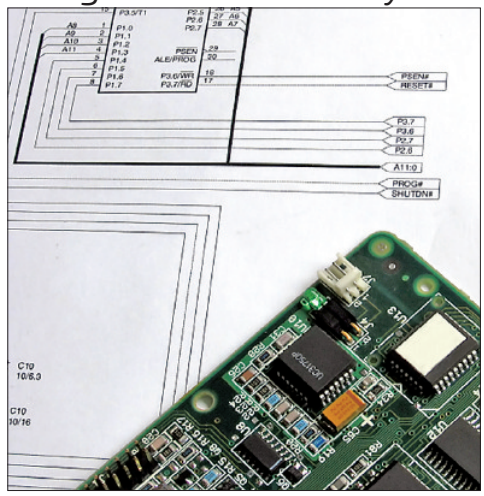
The evolving engineer

An industry that touches all walks of life has changed a lot in recent years

Engineering **the Future**

Metro Workology is focusing on careers and education in the engineering sector for the month of March to celebrate National Engineering Month. Check back every Wednesday.

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada



Engineering has changed a lot over the years, from the pyramids, to steam locomotive, to computer engineering.

From the pyramids of Egypt to Parliament Hill in Ottawa, the history of engineering tells the history of humanity.

Marie Carter, Engineers Canada's chief operating officer, said engineering only became a modern profession in the last century. It was born out of disaster, when a bridge built to cross the Saint Lawrence River collapsed in 1907. An engineering mistake was to blame and it cost the lives of 75 people. An incident in 1916 claimed more lives.

"The Canadian Society of Civil Engineers determined, 'We need to do something about this,'" Carter said from her Ottawa office. "'We need to have some checks and balances on who does engineering. They need to be properly trained.'"

Throughout the 1920s, engineering became increasingly regulated and the tradition of the Iron Ring was born. Originally built from the ruins of the Quebec bridge and now fashioned from stainless steel, each Canadian engineering student is presented a ring in a somber ceremony accompanying graduation.

Carter said scientific "trial and error" steadily improved the building blocks engineers use to build our world ever since.

"Just about everything that you see, do, touch, have as recreation, live with, use to eat, even the food, has got engineering involved in it," she said. "Engineers do touch just about every aspect of the way we live."

Allan Marble has seen the discipline transformed in his 50-plus years as an engineer, but it's not hard for the professor emeritus at Halifax's Dalhousie University to sum up what changed: The computer.

When Marble attended Dalhousie in the 1950s, it was a computer-free land. He vividly remembers the first time he saw a computer in 1962. It was primordial and clunky, but it revolutionized engineering.

In today's wired world, it seems hard to imagine slide rulers doing the job of computers, and that's because they didn't.

"It's an amazing change, really," Marble said over the phone from his Halifax home, adding that it's especially transformed electrical engineering.

"You're trying to analyze signals coming from various sources," he explains. "To do that before the computer, you had to do it by hand."

Now, a computer can work in real time at speeds well beyond human ability.

Computers made it possible for engineers to develop life-saving CT scanners and MRIs. "The amount of calculations done to get a CT image or an MRI image is just mind-boggling. Those things could never be done before the computer," he said.

For more of the Engineering the Future exclusive series check Workology every Wednesday or stop by: **metronews.ca/work**

Workology in **brief**

RESEARCHER BARRED FROM NSERC GRANTS OVER ALLEGED MISUSE CanWest News Service reports that the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada has barred a University of Calgary engineer from funding indefinitely due to allegations of plagiarism and misuse of funds while working at the University of Alberta. While NSERC will not name the accused scientist, CanWest News Service identifies him as Daniel Kwok, who, according to federal government documents obtained through an access-to-information request, spent as much as $150,000 on purchases that seemed "inconsistent" with his research grant proposals during his posting at uAlberta. In 2005, Kwok left Edmonton amid misconduct investigations for a new job at uCalgary, which was not told of the controversy at his previous posting.

FLAMING MISHAP A cooking instructor and student are recovering from injuries sustained during a mishap last week at the New Brunswick Community College's St. Andrews campus. The accident occurred while the instructor refilled a flambé pan with methyl hydrate fuel and it somehow ignited.

TRIMESTER AT UALBERTA? In an article published in Monday's Edmonton Journal, a pair of retired University of Alberta business professors propose the institution reorganize its teaching and related activities from a two-semester to a trimester, with the academic year organized into three equal, 13-week periods. Ross Denham and Allan Warrack cite facilities utilization, accessibility, quality of education, and research productivity as reasons underlying the case for a trimester.

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VIU to cut jobs to balance budget
Vancouver Island University (formerly Malaspina University-College) is looking at cutting positions and tweaking courses to make up for a provincial funding shortfall in its 2010-11 budget. METRO NEWS SERVICES

The Dragons return to their lair

Season finale of the Den takes an intimate look at where the dragons came from

Dragons' Den

Dianne Buckner

metronews.ca/dragonsden

What does it take to climb the corporate ladder right to the top? Wouldn't you love to know how to make the move from working stiff, to fabulously wealthy mogul?

That is the subject of The Road to Riches, the season finale of Dragons' Den tonight. The program tells the life stories of all five Dragons, none of whom were born into money, but who all found a way to parlay their abilities into huge business success.

There are a lot of revelations in the show: Who knew Kevin O'Leary looked like such a bad boy teenager, with long hair and a haze of smoke around him in every shot! Brett Wilson is unbelievably open, sharing deeply personal stories. There's an emotional scene where it's clear Robert Herjavec's heart is still aching over his mother's death.

We also get to visit with Arlene Dickinson and her four children at her sunny, southern getaway, and meet the partner who helped Jim Treliving along his journey from RCMP officer to savvy business-man.

"I'm no more special, I'm no better. I started out where we can all start. And if I was able to do it in a great country like Canada, then anyone can."
Robert Herjavec

What struck me most though is how hard every one of them worked. Consider Jim's experience at his first Boston Pizza franchise.

"I cooked, I did the prep in the morning, did all the stuff to get ready for opening," he says. "And then I cut pizza. After we closed at three in the morning I'd scrub the floor." He says he didn't have a day off for two-and-a-half years!

No wonder he enjoys his condo in Vancouver so much, along with the many trips he takes by private jet, to events like the Masters Tournament!

Robert too, was a hard worker, first as a waiter and then later as a highly ambitious salesman. "People always tell you it's about who you know, it's about your connections," he says. "And granted, if you have that, it's easier. But it's also a load of crap. All it means is that you just gotta work harder."

Herjavec encourages everyone to try. "I'm no more special, I'm no better. I started out where we can all start. And if I was able to do it in a great country like Canada, then anyone can."

But there's more to it all than money, of course. Brett shares what he told his son. "I really want you to think about success as happiness. And if your needs are many, you may never be happy. But if your needs are few and easily met, you might always be happy."

Dianne Buckner is the weekend anchor on CBC News Network and host of Dragons' Den. The season finale airs tonight at 8 p.m. on CBC Television. Auditions for next season are underway. Check cbc.ca/dragonsden for details.

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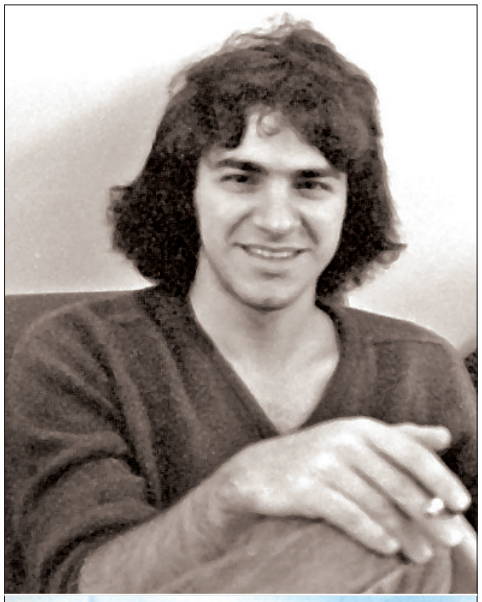

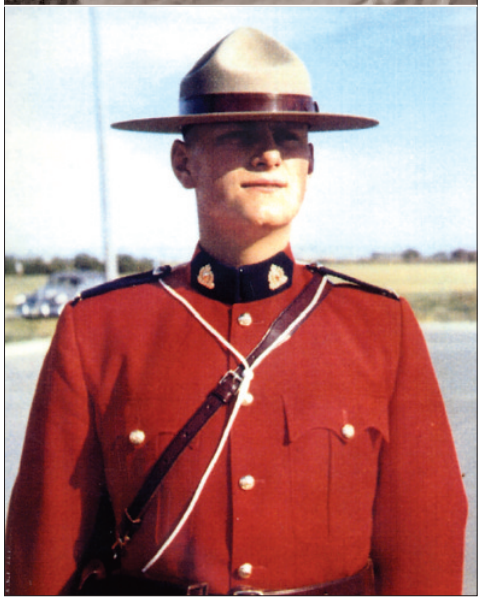

The Dragons have changed the lives of many people throughout this season of Dragons's Den, here's a look into the past of each of the dragons: Clockwise from top left: Kevin O'Leary in his youth, Robert Herjavec visits his hometown in Croatia, W. Brett Wilson at his high school graduation, Arlene Dickinson with her daughter Carley and Dragon Jim Treliving in his RCMP uniform.

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Career colleges offer fast-track experience

KEITH CARMAN
for Metro Canada

Focused on ensuring students receive a valuable theoretical understanding of their preferred field as well as applicable experience, Canada's career colleges offer various employment specialization bolstered by insight into to the latest practices within.

Tamara Stock

Much of this expertise come directly from instructors. Invaluable, they are continually at the forefront of innovation thanks to regular utilization of their skills. One student's opinion of career college best defines it: "Like taking the express bus straight through without stopping … Teaching can only be done properly if the student has hands-on experience."

Tamara Stock at London's Medix School is one of those teachers. Delivering acute knowledge via a Masters Of Science in Clinical Anatomy, the massage therapy instructor is too humble to admit her own value. "I'm not sure that I approach teaching differently from other college teachers but I know that I absolutely love to teach … I measure my success based on my students' success."

Given the ceaseless praise in her honour, Stock is quite triumphant. "When it comes to teachers like her — who are high energy and full of great explanations — Tamara is excellent. (She) shines, using everything in her arsenal to make practical connections with abstract physiology," beams one pupil.

Taking his own means via hands-on dealings with undergrads, Peterborough-born Kalman Szegvary blends business with lifelong pleasure in his role as Head of Film and Television Department at the Toronto campus of media-based education foundation the Trebas Institute.

Kalman Szegvary

A cult filmmaker with interest in branching out to children's pictures, Szegvary continually pushes for innovation in his classroom, establishing a new 3-D Film and Television aspect that the school is currently implementing into programming.

Hands-on and keen to assist, Szegvary's educational role regularly extends beyond the typical four walls as he aides disciples on film sets, scouting locations and often using his personal materials to ensure student works are of the highest calibre. His latest endeavour? The creation of a National Student Film Festival in order to showcase up-and-coming talent.

FOR MORE PROFILES OF SUCCESS, CHECK OUT PAGES 38 AND 40.

Contract limited employee's rights

WorkplaceLaw

Having a contract can sometimes be worse than not having one.

It's possibly the biggest mistake an employee can make: Requesting a written employment contract or worse, agreeing to one without understanding its terms.

How do these contracts affect employees?

When Morris Wernicke agreed to join Altrom Canada Group in 1997, he also agreed to a written employment contract. Wernicke, a chartered accountant, carefully read the contract and even sought the advice of his lawyer before agreeing to its terms.

The contract contained a clause that would permit Altrom to terminate Wernike with the greater of 30 days' notice or the minimum amount he was supposed to receive under provincial legislation and a clause that the contract would continue to apply even if Wernike's job later changed.

A few years later, Wernike was promoted from controller to chief financial officer and given additional responsibilities, including oversight of human resources matters. He became more familiar with employment law, preparing the company's contracts and even attending legal seminars on this topic. Although Wernike's job continued to evolve over time, a new employment contract was never prepared.

When Wernike's position was eliminated in 2009, he was offered six months' severance. However, after 12 years of employment in a very senior role, Wernike thought that he was entitled to much more.

At a recent trial in British Columbia, the company defended the case by arguing that Wernike's original employment contract for the controller's position applied when he was terminated from a more senior role almost 12 years later. The court agreed. Although the contract significantly limited Wernike's entitlement to severance, the court was not prepared to set it aside. Wernike knew what he had agreed to when he started work and his job did not change so dramatically that the contract did not apply when he was later let go.

Without an employment contract, the law will imply a number of employee-friendly terms. The right to termination only with reasonable notice and the right to ensure that fundamental terms, such as salary and position are not unilaterally changed are a few rights that exist even without a contract stating it is so.

Since employers regularly draft these contracts in their favour, employees should consider what they are agreeing to or whether to have a contract at all.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer with Whitten & Lublin LLP. Reach him at dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com.

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Interest in offering three-year degrees surges in U.S.
More American institutions are introducing three-year bachelor's degrees in order to reduce college costs and better serve students, reports Inside Higher Ed. Within the last month, five institutions — two in partnership — have all introduced formal three-year programs to begin this fall. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Profiles Of Success

Find beauty in people and food

MAT LECOMPTE
for Metro Canada

Here's a quick crash course in some top specialty colleges that can pave the way to a successful career.

Fiorio Beauty Academy

Located in Toronto, the Fiorio Beauty Academy allows students to learn directly from hairstylist icon Maurice Fiorio.

Because class sizes are capped at 20, students are able to take advantage of one-on-one training with instructors. This personalized system is of the utmost importance to the Academy's goals, explains Abigail St. Pierre, the events and marketing co-ordinator.

"We're investing in the students," she says. "That's why we want to take our time with them. We train them in hopes to hire them afterwards."

And hire them they do. Many of the graduates — roughly 80-85 per cent says St. Pierre — end up working at a Fiorio salon (which have been voted the best Salons in Canada by Fashion Magazine for 2010).

PHOTO SUBMITTED
Most Fiorio Salon workers across Canada are trained at the Fiorio Beauty Academy.

The program blends classroom time with in-salon experience at the Academy's location. In fact, because of the name and skill level of students, even the Academy has loyal customers who keep coming back. The quality is high, and the expectations are higher.

"We don't want you going out there and working in some corner salon charging $12 for a haircut," says instructor Robert Sousa. "Our students charge $27 and are expected to be charging more as a graduate."

For more information see fiorio.com or call 416-968-9996.

Le Cordon Bleu Culinary Arts Institute

Located in Ottawa, this college offers a 100-year tradition in French cuisine. The Grande Diplome' Professionel program is a 10-month course that takes students from basic skills such as knife selection, preparing and selecting the right foods, to advanced skills like preparing their own dishes.

"Before you become a star chef you have to have the right tools and know how to use them correctly," says Chef Philippe Guiet, of Le Cordon Bleu.

As the creator of the course curriculum, Guiet conducts a balancing act to teach students age-old cooking traditions with new, modern and evolving cuisine. He says by teaching the French chef's philosophy, students acquire an understanding and knowledge that they can apply to any form of cuisine.

For more information see lcbottawa.com/home/en.

Trebas Institute

- A new program being offered at Toronto's Trebas Institute is Event and Venue Management. In it, students learn how to organize and hold corporate events, weddings and other social functions. Even in a rough economy this industry is growing and the projections for the future are even stronger, says Trebas' director, Roy Rintoul. "Corporate events have expanded greatly, and most quickly in Toronto," he told Metro. "Projections have been very good. There will be even more jobs as the economy bounces back."
- With businesses focussing more heavily on developing interpersonal relationships, coupled with a greater need to bring people together, event managers are in increasing demand. According to Rintoul, the program is set up to get students into the workforce as quickly as possible.

Visit trebas.com for more.

Profiles of HERZING COLLEGE

Accredited Paralegal Diploma Program

Herzing College's Paralegal diploma program is accredited by the Law Society of Upper Canada (LSUC). Graduates of the accredited Paralegal program will be eligible to apply to write the Paralegal Licensing Examination through LSUC, that must be completed in order to qualify to practice as a duly qualified licensed Paralegal in Ontario.

This one year program includes a 120 hour internship that is a requirement to write the licensing exam.

The Paralegal program provides both theory and practical skills covering all areas where Paralegals are permitted to practice such as small claims court, advocacy, highway traffic, tribunals and landlord and tenant. Graduates will work in law firms, Government offices, corporate legal departments and many will chose to become self-employed.

As well as Paralegal accreditation, Herzing College Toronto holds institutional accreditation, granted by the Canadian Education and Training Commission (CETAC), as further assurance of quality and standards.

Call Herzing College 1-888-639-2273
Or visit www.herzing.edu *for more information.*

Profiles of Everest COLLEGE
BUSINESS • TECHNOLOGY • HEALTH CARE

As the population ages and the need for long-term care continues to grow, so does the need for personal care workers (PSWs). The Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has made a $107 million commitment to add 873 PSW positions to the health care community*, and Everest College of Business, Technology and Healthcare responds with the offering of their Personal Support Worker diploma program.

During the six-month long Personal Support Worker program, students will gain the required personal and occupational skills needed to care for people affected by aging, disability or illness. Basic skills include responding to the emotional and physical needs of the patients, promoting physical and mental activation, observing and communicating with patients, handling specialized equipment, and providing personal and physical care.

Personal Support Workers (PSWs) may seek career opportunities in settings such as long-term care facilities; home health care agencies, retirement homes/residences; hospices; group homes; adult and child daycare centres for the cognitively and physically impaired.

**2009-2010 annual report for the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care*

(866) 667-9923 • www.everestcareers.ca
Please call or visit for more information.

Profiles of Trillium College

Carlos R

Carlos came to Trillium College in 2008 after working several years in retail. He always enjoyed working with people, and was a person who his friends and family went too when life had it's challenges. He met with one of the Trillium Colleges Registrars and they determined that a career in Community and Social Services was the best fit. He enrolled in the 45 week College Diploma program and graduated later that year, with honours. He did his 8 week placement at a Mental Health facility and did well, and they offered him a full time position after he finished his placement. He has worked there for a year now and enjoy working with members of the community who value his work and help. "Trillium College provided me with the training and tools to be a successful CSSW...."

Lisa B

Lisa enrolled in the Medical Office Administration program in 2009. She always worked in customer service and was hoping to find a career with more regular work and hours. She graduated with her Diploma in Medical Office Administration with honours. She obtained a career with a Chiropractic Office in her community. It is a small family business and she is very happy. "Trillium College gave me the skills and confidence to re-enter the professional workforce...the instructors were so supportive and knowledgeable" says Lisa.

Tina K

Tina came to Trillium College in 2009 to pursue her dream of working in a Dental Office as an Intra Oral Dental Assistant. She toured the school and liked the small classes and thought that would be best for her, as she had been out of school for several years. She had a young family and the regular schedule and taking one module at a time with regular evaluation, suited her best. "...I also appreciated the fact that I had my diploma in 50 weeks..." says Tina.
Tina was employed by a Dental Office near her home and has a flexible schedule that fits her family needs. She enjoys her work, and feels like she is helping her community.

Karla T

Karla always enjoyed working with numbers and decided that she was best suited to Accounting and Payroll. She enrolled in the Accounting and Payroll diploma program at Trillium College in 2008. She appreciated the small classes and individual instruction. She was hired by a small firm right after graduation and has since leveraged that experience and education to a Accounts Payable position with a larger company. Karla says "... the instructors went thru the Accounting and Microsoft programs and explained how we would be using them in the office environment....also learned the skills to go into business for ourselves...."

Trillium College is a registered Private Career College that has 8 campuses across Ontario (Ottawa, Oshawa, Kingston, Peterborough, Richmond Hill, Toronto, Burlington and St. Catharines) offering College Diploma courses in Health, Business and Social disciplines. Call us at 888 982 0575 for more information about our classes and to book a tour at any of our campuses.

www.trilliumcollege.ca

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"You won't walk into a hospital or pharmacy in Ottawa without seeing Herzing grads."
Dave McCormick
vice-president of Herzing College

The career of your dreams won't appear over night. It may be nine months away.

Career colleges like Medix Schools and Herzing College provide students with hands-on knowledge to pursue the career of their choice. The education process is expedited by eliminating electives and providing the students only with the skills they'll on the job.

Susan Waite-Price, community service worker instructor at Medix School in Toronto, says students benefit from small class sizes and the family atmosphere offered by the school. With opportunity for one-on-one instruction, students can receive the guidance they need to prepare themselves for 500 hours of field work, followed by a career in a growing industry.

"It's interesting the program is nine months," says Waite-Price, "because when I send them off I feel like I've given birth!"

But don't let the family atmosphere fool you — this program isn't for the weak-hearted. Community-service workers work with clients facing extreme circumstances like abuse, depression, homelessness and a number of other difficult issues.

"I'm going to shock you and trigger you," she says, "because the place for you to break down is in the classroom, not out in the field."

Some skills good community workers possess are their ability to display understanding, empathy, warmth and respect towards clients, Waite-Price says. Excellent listening skills are of the utmost importance.

"You must listen to the words," she says, "but also what's not being said"; referring to body language.

In Ottawa, Herzing College offers a one-year pharmacy technician program. The program is one of only a handful that's accredited by the Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs.

It includes an eight-week field placement where students can work in hospital or community pharmacies.

One of the main differences between a pharmacy technician and a pharmacy assistant, explains Dave McCormick, vice-president of Herzing College, Ottawa, is the technician's training in administering IV pharmaceuticals in a hospital setting.

"You won't walk into a hospital or pharmacy in Ottawa without seeing Herzing grads," he says.

Profiles of COMPLECTIONS International Academy of Make-up Artistry

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Profiles of Medix School

Professional Fitness Consultant

The objective of the Professional Fitness Consultant program offered at Medix School is to train students with the knowledge, abilities and hands-on skills needed to become highly qualified, Certified Personal Fitness professionals/consultants. The program offers the most up to date curriculum delivered through the Professional Fitness Institute and the hands on experience necessary to succeed within this exciting field. If you have the desire and motivation to begin a rewarding career where you can help improve the wellness of individuals, please visit www.medixschool.ca or call us 416-630-8021 or join us this Saturday, March 20 at 2:00 p.m. for our Professional Fitness Event.

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Please call or visit www.medixschool.ca *for more information.*

Hemingway home designated landmark
Ernest Hemingway's Key West home, where the American author lived in the 1930s, has been designated a literary landmark. It has become a museum honouring the Pulitzer and Nobel prize-winning author in 1964. hemingwayhome.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel

Heading to the World Cup?

Thinking about heading to this year's World Cup in South Africa? Consider picking up a Footprint travel guide for any of the major cities. The pocket sized package has the most up-to-date information about the city, its surroundings and is packed with ideas for making the most of the time available. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

Victoria Falls takes you to the edge

Flying over Africa in a flimsy microlight plane will thrill even the hardened adrenalin junkie

NICK BOULOS
Metro World News

There are many ways to experience Africa's mighty Victoria Falls, which sit between Zimbabwe and Zambia but a microlight flight is undoubtedly the most thrilling.

As a result these flimsy aircraft circle the falls like vultures over a kill.

The jubilant faces returning from the air did nothing to calm my nerves as I climbed into the muddle of wing and wire and pulled my seatbelt tightly. It was, after all, the only thing stopping me from plummeting 1,000 feet.

There's no hiding from the elements in a microlight. With no doors, windows or even a windscreen and only a handrail to grip, it's just you, the wind and the scenery.

The bright blue hang gliding wings reached out above me while the small engine behind me hummed away.

"Ready?" asked my pilot Pascal as he turned around to face me.

As I considered my response, the wheels started rolling.

The microlight rumbled down the short muddy runway and we were airborne.

Heart racing, I stole an immediate glance beyond where my feet now dangled freely. Huge clusters of acacia trees blurred into the forest green landscape and a lone giraffe grazed as we circled to gain altitude.

Soon we were hundreds of feet over the murky Zambezi River as it flowed towards the waterfalls where a million litres of water plunge over the 103m drop every second spewing spray high into the air.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Africa's Victoria Falls sport a 103 m drop off, where a million litres of water passes over it everyday.

$2,000

Two nights on Sindabezi Island in Zambia on an all-inclusive basis and return flights from Johannesburg costs under $2,000 with To Escape To (toescapeto.com)

The 1.7km wide falls — known locally as Mosi-oa-Tunya (The Smoke That Thunders) — were discovered in 1855 by Scottish explorer David Livingstone, who named them after the reigning British monarch.

Now at our maximum altitude Pascal banked the microlight sharply for one more loop. We glided straight into the plume of spray directly above the falls. Greyness closed in at every angle and fine droplets settled on my visor.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Microlight flights over the falls are available for $150.

The ride was over before it began. Pascal landed the microlight with a bump and tug of the handlebar. A smile spread across my face as we rolled down runway as the next passenger waited nervously.

Adrenalin junkie?

Our pick of the best white knuckle activities at Victoria Falls....

1 A white water ride: Whether it's one or several days spent tackling the terrifying Grade 5+ rapids of the Zambezi, one of the world's most challenging white water rivers, this will easily satisfy a thirst for adventure. Trips are sometimes suspended between March and May when water levels are too high. Hold on tight.

2 3, 2, 1 ... Bungee!: Plummet towards the Zambezi by throwing yourself off the 111m high Victoria Falls Bridge, which was built in 1905 and links Zambia to Zimbabwe. Choose between a solo jump, tandem bungee or the Bridge Swing or do all three for the knockdown price of $50.

3 Take a dip: Enjoy the most memorable swim of your life at the very edge of the falls. Visit Livingstone Island between September and December and the low water level make it possible to splash around in Devil's Pool, just inches from the perilous drop. Vertigo sufferers need not apply.

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Machu Picchu travel returning to normal

Peruvian officials say they expect train service to the Inca ruins of Machu Picchu will be restored Mar. 29. Fierce rains in January washed out the rail link, the only terrestrial means of arrival other than by foot. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ascending to Mount Sinai's heights

Trekking to the summit a memorable experience for the religious and non-religious alike

In the Bible, Moses climbs Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments.

But he was the chosen one, and I am a mere mortal. Divine intervention seemed unlikely as I stood at the base of the mountain, chilled to the bone at 2 a.m., with only the faint light from the stars and a sliver of moon on the dark rocky terrain.

I'd decided to head to the fabled mountain peak while frolicking in the sun and the azure waters of the Red Sea, where the temperatures were warm and balmy. I would retrace Moses' footsteps on a hike to witness the sunrise from the summit. If Moses could do it, why couldn't I?

But once I arrived for this overnight trek — sleepless to find temperatures that felt morelike a North American winter — I wasn't so sure.

Then out popped our guide, a sprightly young Egyptian man with a yellow-toothed grin. He was dressed in little more than a galabeya, the traditional long men's shirt, while I felt cold wearing almost all the clothing I brought with me on my trip, including a borrowed jacket and my woolliest socks from Canada, where I live. His garment billowed in the wind as he led me and a group of travellers from around the world up to the summit.

As we began our ascent up the 2,285 metres, I searched the black sky for a glimpse of our endpoint. But the only thing visible to me was my vaporous breath and what appeared to be the shadows of camels lumbering up the mountain. I wondered for a moment if I was hallucinating.

We followed in step with our guide as he led us through the darkness, up the winding trail, over granite crags and slippery rocks. I'm not religious, but the irony of the moment hit me: I'd literally put all my faith in this man I'd just met.

For others on the hike, the expedition had deep religious significance. The Bible says this is where God gave Moses two stone tablets inscribed with the commandments. Moses received these laws after leading the Jews out of slavery in Egypt, a story that is retold during the Jewish holiday of Passover, which begins this year at sundown on March 29. But Sinai is an important site for Jews, Christians and Muslims alike, and every night, hundreds of pilgrims make the climb.

There are two routes for the seven-kilometre round trip: The camel path, which was our route, or a steeper, more direct route of some 3,750 stairs to the top, sometimes referred to as "God's Stairmaster."

For me, the camel route was challenging enough. I could feel my heart pounding through layers of clothes and the sweat trickling on my forehead felt like a fever chill. The Bible says Moses made two sojourns here to receive the tablets, spending 40 days on the mountain each time, but we would be up and down in four hours.

The sanctity of the hike was disrupted by scores of other hikers vying to reach the top quickly to mark their spot to watch the sunrise, and the constant calls of, "Camel ride, camel ride" from Egyptian entrepreneurs. But I preferred following the guide on foot rather than trusting a camel on the messy, pebbly trail.

The hours rolled into each other. At about 5 a.m., the sky began its slow transformation, turning from black to shades of grey, our cue to get to the top, where the sun could be seen slowly rising. Our guide stopped short of the final ascent; we were to lead ourselves up the last 750 rocky steps to the summit.

As we climbed the last bit, stone silhouettes began to form in the distance. The summit appeared to be blanketed with mummified people tucked in sleeping bags and camel blankets. The wind was treacherous; my fingers were too frozen to unzip my sleeping bag. I took my spot on a jagged piece of rock face, too cold to do much except pray for the warmth of the sun. My prayers were answered slowly as a dusty orange light filtered through the sky.

As the sun came into view, a group of Romanian pilgrims broke into a hymn. The mountains turned crimson, gold and orange, and I almost expected the Romanians to start singing "Hallelujah." They didn't, but I did, in my head. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ENRIC MARTI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Colours dance against the mountains during the sunrise at the peak of Mount Sinai

ENRIC MARTI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The site is a religious one but is also visited by average tourists.

ENRIC MARTI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pilgrims descend on Mount Sinai on Passover every year.

If you go...

- You can easily join or organize tours from either of the resort towns Dahab and Sharm El Sheik. If you don't go with a tour, you can hire a local guide when you arrive for a few dollars. Expeditions to Sinai can also be arranged from Israel.
- Bring a sleeping bag and/or blanket to keep warm at the summit and layer your clothing so you can easily add or remove items.

Passover brings increased travellers to Sinai

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*Trade-mark of The Toronto-Dominion Bank.

Famed theatre completes renovation

The Dock Street Theatre in Charleston's historic district, on the site of America's first theatre, is reopening after a three-year, $18-million renovation. The theatre is known to audiences regionally and around the world for the productions staged there by the Spoleto Festival USA. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

METRO WORLD NEWS

Traditional demonstrations can be found across the city.

600-years of heart and Seoul

Korean capital sports world-class collection of historical landmarks

SEON-MI CHO
Metro World News

Seoul is a city of infinite discovery. Visitors who come to Seoul for the first time are surprised to find a thriving metropolis.

The city was devastated during the Korean War but has succeeded in rising from the rubble as one of the fastest growing cities in the world. It is blazing a trail as the cultural, business, and transportation hub of Northeast Asia.

Seoul has been the capital of Korea for 600 years and is full of reminders of a long and glorious past, from the imposing royal palaces in the downtown area, to the world-class collection of the National Museum of Korea in Yongsan. The city's long history has handed down a wealth of precious cultural remnants from palaces, fortresses, neo-modern temples to timeless patches of ancient architecture.

People who love the great outdoors will love the city's natural surroundings, with towering granite peaks, and forested hillsides dotted with peaceful temples and shrines. Those who go sightseeing can stroll among the city's ancient palace grounds and take in Seoul's spectacular nigh-time scenery.

IT'S MY FIRST TIME
Deoksugung

Deoksugung became a main palace for King Gojong of the Joseon Kingdom from 1897 to 1910. History is written into every bit of the palace walls. Junghwajeon, or the main throne hall, was the site of official courtesy calls by foreign envoys and was built in 1902. If you look inside the hall, you will see a dragon-embellished throne and a traditional folding screen featuring five mountains, the sun, and the moon, all of which are emblems of Korean royalty.

I'VE BEEN BEFORE
National Museum of Contemporary Art

Located in the midst of natural surroundings and man-made buildings, while preserving the Korean elements of architectural space, the Museum of Contemporary Art expresses traditional and modern Korean culture in one key location. This outstanding institution of culture is also within reach of the Seoul Grand Park at Gwacheon, and is endowed with a total floor space of 12,000 square metres and is adjacent to an open-air sculpture garden and a concert stage, all of which enhance the ease of movement among the facilities.

WHERE TO SHOP

You could spend weeks at the city's fascinating traditional markets and the upscale shops of Myeongdong and Gangnam. Visitors can also enjoy a variety of Korean food. Korean cuisine has something for everyone. Meat lovers will love dishes like galbi and bulgogi, and vegetarians will love favorites like bibimbap as well as Korea's famous rich noodle dishes.

With first-class cultural facilities, terrific night-life and a never-ending schedule of public events, you will never be bored in Seoul.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Neo-modern and traditional temples dot the Seoul horizon.

Local customs

- Bargaining: In the traditional markets, bargaining is frequently possible.
- Side Dish: In restaurants, most of the side dishes such as Kimchi are provided for free.
- Taking off shoes: Korean people take off their shoes while in a house. To not do so is a considerable sign of disrespect.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Seoul's night life thrives on a booming restaurant scene.

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Tokyo opens new airport
Tokyo's third international airport opened Thursday with festivity. Its regular schedule begins next month. METRO NEWS SERVICES

METRO WORLD NEWS

The coffee house owners ball is perhaps the most popular of the year in Vienna.

Having a ball in Vienna

High-society and working classes dance as one

CÉLIA PEDROSO
Metro World News

METRO WORLD NEWS

Kids can get a taste of the musical roots tied to Vienna.

In the country of Strauss, waltzing is still fashionable.

And both young and old enjoy this enchanting experience that for many exists only in period movies.

White silk dresses and black tails take to the floor for two impossibly glamorous months in Vienna. The Blue Danube and Radetzky March resound in the former imperial city ballrooms attracting both Austrians and visitors alike.

These balls reflect the city's professions so you will find a Engineers Ball, the Lawyer's Ball, the Pharmacist's ball or even the Coffeehouse Owners' Ball.

The season starts with the Vienna Philharmonic Ball at the sumptuous Musikverein.

THE OPERA BALL

Next is the hotly anticipated Opera Ball.

If you're able to get a ticket you can run into Viennese high society, international celebrities and European nobility.

The prestigious State Opera hosts this event where 186 couples dance the opening polonaise as their formal introduction to Viennese society. Despite the $320 price, demand is huge so make sure you reserve well in advance.

CUP OF JOE

The season is full of interest for a lot of professions but the Viennese Coffeehouse Owners' Ball is perhaps the most unique and attracts around 5,000 visitors to the Hofburg Palace. After dancing, travel to the Café Landtmann in a traditional fiacre (a coach pulled by horses).

FULL OF ROMANCE

For the romantic type the Johann Strauss Ball in the beautiful setting of the Kursalon, is very popular. But for those looking for some excitement, the Rudolfina Masked Ball during Carnival, is a must. The Hofburg palace hosts this mask event.

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See Huck Finn's roots
On the centenary of the author's death, Mark Twain fans will swarm Hannibal, Mo., the river town of his boyhood that inspired a raft of literary gems, and Hartford, Conn. marktwaincountry.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

5 festival destinations

Where to see shows across the globe this summer

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
Metro World News

If Canadian Music Week left you wanting more this year, consider festival hopping this summer.

Metro found five summer music festivals to leave you satisfied.

METRO WORLD NEWS

U2 is expected to headline at Glastonbury this summer.

1 COACHELLA
California, USA

The epitome of hippie chic, the Coachella festival near Palm Springs, is two days of sunshine, sustainabilty and sound. Carpooling is advised and camping is the way forward. Rock up in your RV, pitch a tent or book one of the few luxury safari tents that come with air conditioning, a couch and a golf buggy to get you to and from the stages.

2010 dates
April 16-18

Expected Line Up
David Guetta, Jay-Z, Charlotte Gainsbourg, Corinne Bailey Rae, Gorillaz, Vampire Weekend, Gossip, The Dead Weather Phoenix

How do I get there?
Palm Springs International Airport and then renting a car/carpooling
(coachella.com)

2 ROCK IN RIO
Lisbon

Rotating between Rio, Madrid, and Lisbon, 2010 takes you to the latter. Held in Lisbon's Bela Vista Park, it's mainly the special stages you should be on the lookout for here. Head to the sunset or electronic stage and make sure you attend at least one of the improvised jam session.

2010 dates
May 21-27

Expected Line Up
Miley Cyrus and John Mayer

How do I get there?
Bela Vista Park is a mere 15-minute walk from Lisbon airport.
(rockinrio-lisboa.sapo.pt)

METRO WORLD NEWS

Miley Cyrus will perform at Rock in Rio this year.

3 GLASTONBURY
United Kingdom

Possible the most star studded festival, "Glasto" is as much of a fashion and scenester spot as it is music music. Kate Moss, Lily Allen, Jay-Z and Alexa Chung are regulars and although that time of year is often plagued by rainy spells, a good raincoat and a sturdy pair of plastic boots on your feet is all you need.

2010 dates
June 23-27

Expected Line Up
U2, Stevie Wonder, Jack Johnson, Muse

How do I get there?
Bristol International Airport is best
(glastonburyfestivals.co.uk

4 ROSKILDE
Denmark

The Nordic festival is not only a non-profit organization (all profits go to a designated cause) there's also free camping along with your ticket purchase. Go to the website to suggest or apply some of the festival's green tips. What's more is the food stalls mainly sell local and organic produce.

2010 dates
July 1-4

Expected Line Up
Jack Johnson, Muse

How do I get there?
You are 35 km from Copenhagen
(roskilde-festival.dk)

METRO WORLD NEWS

Coachella in California is this year's hippie chic festival.

5 BENICASSIM
Spain

Wedged between Barcelona and Valencia is Costa de Azaha, whose prisitine beaches turn into the dance floors of Spain's biggest music festivals.

More of an excuse to soak up the sun and swim in the sea, Benicassim's amazing nightlife has led it to gain a reputation as the wild child of summer festivals.

2010 dates
July 15-18

Expected Line Up
The pPodigy, Kaabian, Dizzee Rascal

How do I get there?
Valencia airport is about one hour away
(benicassim2010.com)

Back to the Ice Age
An intact baby woolly mammoth is to go on display for the first time in the United States at The Field Museum. fieldmuseum.org. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jump off at Jodhpur

Rural town a good place to start trip in India

AHARON ROTHSCHILD
Metro World News

Jodhpur is in the center of Rajasthan, a rural mountainous desert state located in the Northeast of India.

Easy to reach, tourist friendly, and with a range of decent to good hotels, Jodhpur is the perfect jumping off point to the rest of Rajasthan.

SEE

Mehrangarh Fort

Explore Period Rooms and an Armory with ancient inlaid sword in the fort's world-class museum before heading out to the battlements overlooking the city. A spill of old square houses white-washed a faded blue abuts the sheer cliff, above which stands the tall orange grey walls of the Mehrangarh Fort. This is Jodhpur, a city that is a thing of searing beauty.

HEAR

Rajasthani folk music

Rajasthani folk songs performed daily at the Fort, or come for a five day Rajasthan International Folk Festival with over 150 local and international performing artists. It starts Oct. 21. (jodhpurfolkfestival.org)

METRO WORLD NEWS

Jodhpur has maintained its cultural uniqueness as Western ways have crept into the rest of India.

EAT

Kachouri

Kachouri are small deep fried dumplings with a spicy bean filling, served with a side of sweet and tangy chutney.

With the arid environment here, the local ethnic cuisine uses little water, substituting Milk and Ghee (clarified butter) making for some thick eating.

DRINK

Nimbu Pani

Nimbu Pani (Lime water) is best when made with fresh squeezed limes. Avoid the Sweet and Salty variety if you don't like the sulfur taste of rock salt and ask for Fresh Lime Soda if you like bubbles.

Sonoma Valley name bike-friendly community

A wonderful way to experience Sonoma Valley's many charms is by taking to its hiking and biking trails, which offer an in-depth view of the beautiful 17-mile valley — including the City of Sonoma, recently named a Bicycle-Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists. sonomavalley.com. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Out of this world vacations

Space tourism entrepreneurs trying to bring man to stars

PAUL BALDWIN
Metro World News

In 1968 the science fiction writer Arthur C Clarke wrote the classic 2001 and predicted mankind would be happily living in space.

For a visionary rarely wide of the mark this proved to be a spectacular miscalculation.

It's the second decade of the 21st century and most of us are very much on terra firma.

But that's about to change.

Entrepreneurs are starting to look at space travel as the next level of adrenaline vacation — albeit for the very well-off — and if all goes to plan the first real space tourists could be in orbit by the end of the year.

Jeff Greason the CEO of space firm XCOR said: "Our mission is to radically lower the cost of spaceflight," and he's serious.

It's a small(ish) market but here are the best options:

METRO WORLD NEWS

A four-week trip on Bigelow Aerospace will set you back a cool $14.9 million.

VIRGIN GALACTIC
What:
Spaceship 2, ultra-light carbon composite craft carrying six passengers and two pilots.

Journey:
Take off from Spaceport, a purpose-built site in New Mexico, climb to 50,000 feet using conventional power before splitting from the mother ship and heading for space at a rocket-propelled 2,500 mph. Experience zero gravity and stunning views of the Earth and space before heading back in a day.

Cost:
$200,000

XCOR AEROSPACE
What:
The Lynx suborbital vehicle

Journey:
California-based firm say the plane will use liquid fuel rocket engines to hit twice the speed of sound and 200,000 feet before gliding back to earth and landing on a runway 30 minutes later.

The Lynx could make this trip up to four times per day.

Cost:
$95,000

METRO WORLD NEWS

A trip on Virgin Galactic will set you back $200,000.

BIGELOW AEROSPACE
What:
Genesis 2. Neither a rocket or a space vehicle but an inflatable space station. The Genesis 2 and it's predecessor Genesis 1 were launched on the top of cold war ballistic missiles and are still orbiting as low level space stations.

Journey:
Nevada- based entrepreneur Robert Bigelow hopes that the pods will be used both as floating hotels and laboratories for serious scientific research for nations not involved with the International Space Station.

Cost: $14.9 million.

TERMS & CONDITIONS: Departing Toronto (YYZ) **PACKAGE:** includes round-trip airfare, round-trip airport/hotel transfers, two nights with breakfast and FREE Norden Voyager Discount Card. The Norden Voyager card entitles you to a huge range of savings from Icelandic retail shops and service. Price reflects $100 per person discount. Discount taken at time of purchase. Price based on staying at Hotel Fron (***) and valid for travel **May 16–Jun 15, 2010.** Also available at higher rates **Jun 16–Oct 22, 2010**. Minimum stay 2 nights, maximum stay 7 nights; extra nights are at passenger expense. All nights must be in hotels booked through Icelandair. Cancellations/changes subject to $400 penalty 30–60 days prior to departure; non-changeable 29 days or less prior to departure. All fees are per person. Personal travel insurance not included bus recommended. Lower-priced packages may be available on www.icelandair.us. Other restrictions apply. Seats are limited. **Last Booking Date: Apr 15, 2010** Seats are limited. *Prices quoted are exclusive of applicable taxes and official charges by destination of approx. $100 person and fuel surcharge of $170 per person.

ICELANDAIR
WWW.ICELANDAIR.CA

Getting married in Jamaica?
For help planning your destination wedding in Jamaica check out halfmoon.com for their speciality services. METRO NEWS SERVICES

METRO WORLD NEWS

The Hotel du Palais didn't make our budget list but if you have the dollars the luxury can't be beat.

French fun at its best

Biarritz offers something for every budget

PAUL BALDWIN
Metro World News

The spirit of La Belle Epoque is still alive and well in Biarritz.

Metro found places to eat, stay and play for any budget.

DAILY BUDGET $50

EAT

Bar du Jardin

Simple but cool little terrace restaurant packed with locals. Seasonal gems include great squid dishes in summer and roasts in winter. Try the Omelette aux cèpes.

(bar-dujardin.com)

STAY

La Ferme de Biarritz

Okay it's actually $5 more than the limit for a double room but this 17th century Basque farm is so exquisite that it feels a lot more expensive. Fabulous interior decorating.

Hotel Oxo.

(fermedebiarritz.com)

PLAY

Surf

The beach is a key draw here (and can get a bit crowded in summer).

The surfing is some of the best in Europe and beyond the main beach there are loads of little coves just a few minutes walk away.

DAILY BUDGET $100

EAT

Baleak

Set in the food quarter of Biarritz Baleak is one of those places where quality is all.

The toasted garlic bread with red mullet is just sublime and the wine list is clever too. Excellent value. (baleak.fr)

STAY

Hotel Oxo

Doesn't look much from the outside but the interior is surprisingly modern and stylish. Its very central location allows easy access to the beach, casino, and shops and restaurants in town.

(hotel-oxo.com)

Play

Le Musee de la Mer Aquarium

There's something about the art deco grandeur of this aquarium that makes it more than the sum of its parts.

And the ocean backdrop clinches it.

(museedelamer.com)

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*To enter or read contest rules, visit transatholidays.com/contests/cuba. The contest is open to all Canadian residents who have reached the age of majority in their province or territory of residence by the contest opening date. The contest runs from March 17 to April 13, 2010. The draw will take place on April 20, 2010.

Setting sliding records

On Mar. 26 all 11 Great Wolf Lodge locations will participate in an attempt to break a Guinness World's Record. The Great Wolf Lodge World's Largest Waterslide-athon will take place over 24 consecutive hours with one designated slide per resort. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Tradition runs deep in Kyoto

Buddha paintings, sand gardens, Geishas make history come alive

DANIELLE DEMETRIOU
Metro World News

METRO WORLD NEWS

Spend a night in Kyoto looking for elusive Geishas.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Tofukuji Temple embodies traditional Kyoto culture.

Kyoto is a city with 100 per cent Japanese stamped right across it.

If you're are looking for an authentic experience, look no further than this gem.

WHERE TO WAKE UP
9H

Two words: Capsule and cool. It may not sound like the height of glamour, but the capsule hotel much loved by snoring salarymen has undergone a hip design makeover in Kyoto. 9H recently opened 125 small but perfectly formed minimalist capsules, complete with showers, locker room and a lounge.
(9hours.jp)

WHERE TO SPEND THE MORNING
Tofukuji Temple

Zen and the art of temple appreciation is the order of the day. Forget city life and pass through the historic tiered gates of Tofukuji Temple for a spot of meditative contemplation of the epic Buddha paintings, the raked sand gardens and its famous autumn maple trees.
(tofukuji.jp/english.html)

WHERE TO SPEND THE AFTERNOON
Kyoto Art Center

It's not all about the past in Kyoto. For a taste of the city's 21st century creative scene, pop into Kyoto Arts Centre, an edgy contemporary art space with regular exhibitions of young Asian artists and a café housed in a former school.
(kac.or.jp)

WHERE TO HAVE DINNER
Bron Ronnery

For a fusion taste of traditional Kyoto mixed with contemporary cuisine, head to Bron Ronnery at Hotel Screen, the city's first design hotel. Beneath a ceiling of gold and floral panels, tuck into a succession of traditional dishes with a modern twist each as pretty as a painting, followed by a signature plum cocktail at the bar.
(the-screen.jp)

From tiny bars to tea houses

HOW TO SPEND THE NIGHT
Geisha spotting

Head to the atmospheric narrow cobbled lanes of Pontocho and look out for the delicate clip of a wooden sandal and a flash of silk kimono beneath the lanterns. Given that they are often more elusive than a leopard in the bush, fill in the (lengthy) gaps by sipping sake nightcaps at any one of the tiny bars and teahouses that line the lanes.

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Jamaica Travel Mar 18 - Mar 25/c6		$49 + taxes & fees $268
La Romana Travel Mar 22 - Mar 29/ts		$49 + taxes & fees $320
Puerto Plata Travel Mar 18 - Mar 25/c6		$49 + taxes & fees $320
Varadero Travel Mar 19 - Mar 26/ts		$49 + taxes & fees $204
Cayo Coco Travel Mar 18 - Mar 25/ts		$69 + taxes & fees $204
St Maarten Travel Mar 20 - Mar 27/ts		$149 + taxes & fees $240
Miami Travel Apr 13 - Apr 20/dl		$169 + taxes & fees $114
New York Travel Apr 7 - Apr 14/la		$179 + taxes & fees $95
Costa Rica Travel Mar 20 - Mar 27/5g		$197 + taxes & fees $210
Panama City Travel Mar 22 - Mar 29/ts		$199 + taxes & fees $235

Sun Vacation

Cancun Budget Air + 5 Nights $129

Imperial Laguna + taxes & fees $277
INCLUDES accom with kitchenette. Departs Mar 20/swg/wg. UPGRADE to 4-star Sens Cancun for $20 per night.

All-inclusive Vacations

Puerto Plata 7 Nights 3.5-Star $217
Luperon Beach Resort + taxes & fees $321
Departs Mar 21/nol/5g. UPGRADE to 4-star Allegro Puerto Plata from $15 per night. Departs Mar 21/vat/5g.

Varadero 7 Nights 3.5-Star $327
Club Puntarena + taxes & fees $204
Departs Mar 19/nol/ts. UPGRADE to 4-star Allegro Varadero for $16 per night.

Cancun 5 Nights 4-Star $345
Oasis Palm Beach + taxes & fees $277
Departs Mar 20/swg/wg.

La Romana 7 Nights 4-Star $428
Oasis Canoa + taxes & fees $322
Departs Mar 21/sgn/5g.

Cozumel 7 Nights 4.5-Star $495
Melia Cozumel Golf and Beach Resort + taxes & fees $277
Departs Mar 24/swg/wg.

Mayan Riviera 7 Nights 4-Star $497
RIU Lupita + taxes & fees $272
Departs Mar 19/sqv/5g.

USA Vacations

New York City Air + 3 Nights $489

Affinia 50 + taxes & fees $94
INCLUDES Midtown Manhattan accom. Departs May 5/ggv/la. ADD The Phantom of the Opera Broadway ticket for $115.

Florida Air + Car $149
+ taxes & fees $231
INCLUDES 7-day car rental from Fort Lauderdale to explore Florida. Travel Mar 19 - Mar 26/vat/ts.

Orlando Family Special Air + 5 Nights $149◊
Champions World Resort + taxes & fees $232
Departs Mar 21/ggv/ts.

Las Vegas Air + 4 Nights 5-Star $395
Mandalay Bay Resort + taxes & fees $241
Departs Apr 18/swg/wg.

Arizona Air + 3 Nights 4-Star $549
Pointe Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort + taxes & fees $137
INCLUDES accom near Phoenix, set amid the Mountains with water park, spa and championship golf course. Departs Apr 12/ggv/dl.

San Francisco Air + 4 Nights $599
Renoir Hotel + taxes & fees $127
Departs Apr 26/ggv/aa.

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Real American hero
Ryan Phillippe is in talks to play Captain America. The star confirmed he is to audition for the lead role in forthcoming superhero movie The First Avenger: Captain America and is hoping to land the role of the crime fighter and his alter ego Steve Rogers. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment

Star Search

Paula Abdul was once the queen of American Idol. Soon, she may be the competition. Abdul is finalizing a deal to help ABC launch a new version of Star Search, the classic TV talent contest. PEOPLE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Run for the money

Aniston and Butler hook up in The Bounty Hunter

RICHARD CROUSE
for Metro Canada

In The Bounty Hunter, Jennifer Aniston and Gerard Butler work on the borders of their comfort zones. Butler is the titular character, a former cop so down on his luck he takes a gig tracking down his ex-wife (and alleged real-life girlfriend) Aniston, for a payday of $5,000.

"I felt this was a different role for her," says Butler of his co-star. "She is the Queen of Comedy and done a lot of romantic comedies, but this doesn't feel like a romantic comedy. It feels like an action driven comedy. She was playing a much bitchier, hard edged character than I think anyone has ever seen her do before and for me that is exciting."

Aniston, best known as Rachel from Friends, or Brad Pitt's ex wife, depending on your appetite for the tabloids, says she was attracted to the role because "it wasn't your traditional run of the mill girl meets guy, guy meets girl."

"It is an action comedy and a road movie with a little romance in there and a little suspense," she said recently in a sit-down with Metro in New York City.

She was, however, taken by surprise by the physical demands of the production. Doing stunts in four inch heels isn't as easy as it looks.

Gerard Butler and Jennifer Aniston in a scene from The Bounty Hunter.

"It is an action comedy and a road movie with a little romance in there and a little suspense." Jennifer Aniston

"Your adrenaline is going and you're not really feeling it at the moment and then I'd get home and notice a bruise here and a callous here," said Aniston, who adds she would consider other action roles in future. "Then there were the handcuffs. Try wearing those, attached to a car door for three days. Not fun."

The Bounty Hunter opens this Friday

For Butler, a Scottish heartthrob best known for his sculpted abs and roles in violent films like 300, the challenge wasn't the physical side, but breaking the action star stereotype.

"My break in America was Attila the Hun, which went into Time Line, Tomb Raider, Reign of Fire and at that point I loved doing that, but it's not like when you are still making your way in the business that people go, 'Tomb Raider, Oh my God, the guy should be in a comedy.' I was waiting for the right opportunity. I thought I don't want to dive in with something crappy. I wanted to wait until I'm lucky enough to get the right script that felt right."

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mourners arrive in Toronto for the funeral of Corey Haim.

Mourners remember teen star Corey Haim

DEATH Grim-faced relatives, friends and fans of Corey Haim gathered at a north Toronto funeral home yesterday to remember the fallen teen icon.

The former heartthrob, best known for starring in a string of '80s films including Lucas, The Lost Boys and License to Drive, was honoured in a private ceremony in his hometown.

Haim's family asked for privacy while they gathered in the wake of his sudden death last week in Burbank, Calif., but that didn't stop more than a dozen reporters and fans from gathering in front of the chapel.

"Some people might say it's a little silly, you didn't know the person. It doesn't matter. You watch the person's movies ... and it becomes a part of your life. To me, it's kind of like a part of my childhood died," said Dan Pigeau, 31.

The baby-faced actor died in hospital with an enlarged heart, pulmonary congestion and water in his lungs. He was 38.

In recent years he spoke openly about a lengthy battle with drug addiction, but it was not known what role drugs may have played in his death.

"You watch the person's movies ... and it becomes a part of your life. To me, it's kind of like a part of my childhood died." Dan Pigeau

Friend Heather Leikan, 31, a former neighbour who met Haim in 2001, said his mother Judy has been a "pillar" of strength.

Leikan remembered Haim as a friendly soul who was generous with his friends.

"He made nothing secret but he also didn't have anything to apologize for," Leikan said as she walked into the funeral home.

"When I met him he was living very modestly. One of the first times I hung out we went for a walk. What kind of guy asks you to go for a walk? I thought that was sweetest thing I'd ever heard."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Artists of the Ballet in *Swan Lake*. Photo by David Cooper.
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FOUR SEASONS CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Sheen back at it ... kinda

The Two and a Half Men star Charlie Sheen returned to the set of the show yesterday — but will still spend nights in rehab — following his not-guilty plea Monday on domestic violence charges. **PEOPLE.COM**

Sisters swing into SXSW

Even though the Court Yard Hounds are a new group, they are hardly your typical baby act.

The duo is derived from one of music's best-selling bands — the Dixie Chicks — and their self-titled debut album is already among the spring's more anticipated releases.

Yet sisters Martie Maguire and Emily Robison are finding themselves working much like every other fledgling group, as they try to establish an identity that will shine despite the oversized shadow cast by the Grammy-winning, multiplatinum Chicks.

"Sometimes, when our manager calls me and says certain things, we go, 'Oh God, we've gotta do that?'" says Maguire with a laugh.

"(But) some of the starting over is actually fun. We missed it along the way. When I look back at some of the Chicks' stuff, it's the early stuff we did where we kind of giggle and go, 'You know what? Those were the good old days,'" she adds. "We're feeling kind of those butterflies in our stomach once again."

The butterflies will be present on Thursday, when they make their stage debut at the South by Southwest music festival (SXSW) in Austin, Texas — an industry showcase for nearly 2,000 acts, from eclectic, esoteric bands to legends.

Among the expected highlights of the festival, which runs from Thursday to Sunday, are performances from Spoon, the Stone Temple Pilots, Estelle, Fall Out Boy's Patrick Stump, and Smokey Robinson.

There's also a planned tribute to Miles Davis and celebrity chef Rachael Ray's annual cookout and showcase, featuring acts like Neko Case and She&Him (M. Ward and Zooey Deschanel).

AP PHOTO/JACK PLUNKETT

Sisters Martie Maguire and Emily Robison debut their new band Court Yard Hounds at SXSW

Another new duo will make their SXSW debut — Broken Bells, the new group formed by superproducer and Gnarls Barkley member Brian "Danger Mouse" Burton and the Shins' James Mercer. Mercer said SXSW is a utopia for music aficionados.

"Not everyone is as big a music fan as Brian and I," he says. "But when you go to South by Southwest, the whole town is taken over by people like you."

Maguire and Robison decided to unveil their new group at SXSW, at the intimate club Antone's, for all the reasons most artists come to SXSW.

"It's turned into such a great springboard for music and so many influential people come and listen to music," said Robison.

But it's also home for the two sisters, who are from Texas; Robison lives in San Antonio, while Maguire lives right in Austin.

"(SXSW) turned into such a great springboard for music and so many influential people come and listen to music."

Emily Robison

"It feels really comfortable having the first (show) where I live, in a club where I go hear bands," she says. "So many times I've gone to hear bands and thought, 'Oh, I can't wait to be on that stage.'"

SXSW will mark the first time they will be centre stage since the Dixie Chicks took off more than a decade ago, when it was Natalie Maines singing lead, flanked by Robison and Maguire playing their string instruments, usually banjo and fiddle. With the Court Yard Hounds, Robison will be singing lead.

While the Chicks haven't broken up, they haven't made any new music since their Grammy winning 2006 album, Taking the Long Way. Both Maguire and Robison grew restless, and after Robison penned several new songs after her divorce, they decided to form a new group while the Chicks remained on hiatus.

"We have the ability to go off and do the stuff for the Court Yard Hounds and really fulfill that part of what drives us and not feel like we have to pressure Natalie to be working if she doesn't want to work," says Robison.

The sisters aren't sure when Maines will return to the Dixie Chicks, but they do have her blessing.

"With the Chicks, to leave the house, it's just a big undertaking," Robison said. "It's kind of like we recreated this monster, and it's a beautiful monster at times. But it's harder to activate. This time, it's a little bit more . . . "

"Mobile!" interjects Maguire, as they both laugh.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GETTY IMAGES

Genesis, minus Peter Gabriel, take to the stage in Cleveland, OH.

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame selects a new band of singing stars

MUSIC An English band steeped in harmony, a reggae pioneer, progressive rockers who thrived despite a defection, four Swedes who combined their nation's traditions with their rock heroes and a man who prowled a ballroom floor singing "Wanna Be Your Dog" wouldn't seem to have much in common.

For a night they did, as The Hollies, Jimmy Cliff, Genesis, ABBA and Iggy Pop's Stooges accepted induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on Monday — a ceremony almost as notable for who wasn't there as who was.

ABBA sold some 100 million records with hits such as Waterloo, Dancing Queen and Knowing Me, Knowing You before disbanding in 1982. Songwriter Benny Andersson described how the melancholy of the "vodka belt" so far north, the pre-rock era music they heard on Swedish radio and the songs of their rock 'n' roll heroes all found their way into ABBA's material.

Andersson and ex-wife Anni-Frid Lyngstad attended the ceremony at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. Agnetha Faltskog, who has a fear of flying, and Bjorn Ulvaeus, who had a family commitment, did not.

"I'm very angry that Madonna got in before us," Lyngstad joked.

Genesis had two distinct incarnations. They were a fixture of Britain's progressive rock scene in the 1970s, known as much for lead singer Peter Gabriel's theatricality as the music. When Gabriel quit, the band put drummer Phil Collins in front of the microphone and they became regulars on the pop charts.

"Phil's drums were the only thing that could hold those disparate elements together," Phish singer and childhood Genesis fan Trey Anastasio said. "He always seemed to be aware that the song came first."

Mike Rutherford said Gabriel sent his apologies, but was unable to attend as he was preparing for a tour. Collins, who seemed to be frowning every time cameras caught him, didn't seem to miss Gabriel.

"We've played without him for 30 years," he said backstage. "We're used to not having him around."

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Hathaway adopts new dog

Anne Hathaway — who already has a much-loved chocolate Labrador called Esmeralda — went to an animal rescue centre in West Hollywood, Calif., on the weekend with her partner Adam Schulman to adopt a new dog. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Naughty by nature

How porn, war and fast food have advanced technology

BRIAN TOWIE
Metro Canada

Him Peter Nowak. Him write book. You read after smite enemy, eat meat and make sex.

The CBC News Online senior science and technology reporter's book Sex, Bombs and Burgers: How War, Porn and Fast Food Created Technology As We Know It, is a decidedly more erudite tome than any caveman could express, but the argument is as primal as it is compelling.

Humanity makes the most advances when it engages the basest of instincts — fighting, screwing and finding easier ways to eat. Nowak documents how major technological breakthroughs over the past 60 years have been achieved through the billion-dollar military, pornographic and fast food industries.

Nowak's epiphany for the book came from an unlikely source, namely the Paris Hilton sex clip making its rounds online some six years ago.

While other viewers watched the video for its high drama and thrilling climax, Nowak paid attention to the footage characteristics — filmed with the same green-hued night-vision technology used during Operation Desert Storm.

"I remember looking at that thinking, 'Where have I seen this before?'" says Nowak.

"And it occurred to me that it was when the U.S. tried to liberate Kuwait from Iraq, watching missiles getting fired off in night vision. And it sort of crystallized for me there, that this was a pretty good link from military to consumer technology. And then I started looking into other things. Military technology comes up with something, and a few years later, we're all using it."

Look no further than items you use everyday for more examples of gadgets rooted in military application.

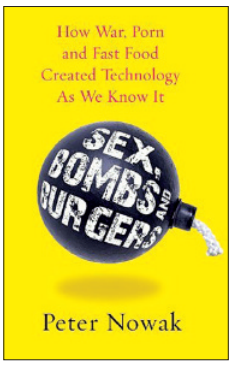
A component of the earliest microwave was first used in the creation of a nation-wide radar system that defended Britain against German air attacks in the Second World War.

What we now know as the Internet can trace part of its origins as a means of quick, easy communication for soldiers in the battlefield, then perfected by the porn industry with the dissemination of online videos and promotions.

Spam (the food product), along with flash-frozen potatoes (the kind you might find in instant mash mixes or French fries at fast food outlets) were ideal foods for war efforts, as they were cheap, traveled well and didn't spoil easily. Such foods, though not the healthiest, revolutionized processing techniques that we still use today.

We're also building better robots through our lechery, Nowak argues. The porn industry, more eager to embrace new, untried means of entertainment than Hollywood, is at the forefront of technology.

The Real Touch sex toy uses haptic technology, currently under experiment for the construction of artificial limbs.



Peter Nowak, left, is the author of new book Sex, Bombs and Burgers.

Settlement for widow, son of bodyguard killed in plane crash

PEOPLE A judge has approved a settlement for the wife and young son of former Blink 182 drummer Travis Barker's bodyguard, who was killed in a plane crash.

The settlement with Learjet Inc., Goodyear Tire&Rubber Co. and other companies involved in the ownership and making of the jet will pay for college for Chris Baker's three-year-old son and give him more than $17 million US.

It also will pay Baker's widow more than $7.6 million. Otilia Baker and her son attended a brief hearing yesterday before Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Mary Strobel.

Baker was killed in a plane crash in Columbia, S.C., in September 2008.

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More goodwill from Jolie

Thanks to UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie, a new primary school for girls in Tangi, Afghanistan is ready to welcome 800 students, according to a UNHCR statement. USMAGAZINE.COM

Morose meditations

TV's sci-fi drama FlashForward offers a glimpse of Americanism

The Americans who populate the ABC series FlashForward are, on balance, a morose lot.

And justifiably so: They are paralyzed by their 137-second visions of the future, part of a weird global bout of unconsciousness in which all humans see glimpses of their lives at the same moment six months onward.

The main character, recovering alcoholic FBI agent Mark Benford (Joseph Fiennes), sees a tomorrow in which he's drinking again and pursued by killers. His wife, Dr. Olivia Benford (Sonya Walger), sees herself intimate with another man — a potentially dangerous man. Benford's partner, Demetri Noh (John Cho), is haunted by his complete lack of a vision — and his certainty that the blackness means he's going to die.

And from Nicole Kirby (Peyton List), a 19-year-old struggling with what she saw in her flash-forward, comes this intriguing bit of pretzel logic: "How do I atone for something I haven't done yet?"

PHOTO COURTESY OF ABC

Actors Courtney B. Vance, and Joseph Fiennes, right, in a scene from FlashForward, which is back on air after a three-month hiatus.

For FlashForward,which returns Thursday (8 p.m. EDT) after a three-month hiatus, all of this is not merely science fiction, though it fits nicely into the crop of weird-twists-on-reality programming in recent years — Lost, Fringe and Life on Mars among the offerings.

With its meditations on inevitability, this show taps into something far more fundamental about the American character: the ability to shape our tomorrows. (The series is based, somewhat loosely, on the 1999 novel FlashForward by Ottawa-born science fiction writer Robert J. Sawyer).

ABC's FlashForward returns on Thursday

America started, for the most part, with a group of people — the Massachusetts Puritans — who believed that no matter what they did in this world, they were predestined to a certain lot in the afterlife. In short, though good behaviour was required, the activities of life weren't worth much in the context of eternity.

Which is why, perhaps, FlashForward is so deeply unsettling. It masquerades as a locked-room mystery with sci-fi undertones. But in reality, it's a meditation on Americanism — a story that tells Americans they cannot control the outcome. And that's not something modern Americans are accustomed to hearing.

Rarely is an entire show's ensemble cast dedicated to overcoming the inevitable.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tyson takes on pigeons

TELEVISION Former world heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson will take flight on Animal Planet with a new sport — pigeon racing.

The network this week announced a new reality show that will pit Tyson, a novice pigeon racer, against serious competitors.

The show is currently titled Taking on Tyson and promises to bring audiences inside this "intensely competitive and bizarrely fascinating world."

Tyson has raised pigeons all his life but will take to the rooftops as a racing rookie. The network says he'll be assisted by a colourful team of pigeon experts as he rears, trains and races them.

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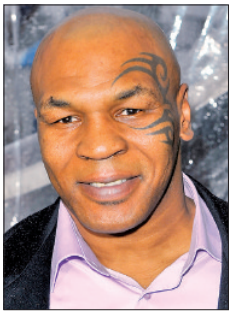

Mike Tyson is set to star in new reality show Taking on Tyson.

Show taping

- Taking on Tyson is scheduled to be taped this spring in New York City and air early next year.

Entertainment in brief

PEOPLE Betty White's dance card continues to fill. The legendary comedian-actress has signed to co-star in the TV Land sitcom Hot in Cleveland. White, previously cast only for the pilot, plays the snarky but spry caretaker of the Cleveland home shared by three former L.A. residents played by Valerie Bertinelli, Jane Leeves and Wendie Malick. Hot is set to start its 10-episode season in June. The 88-year-old White last week was named to host NBC's Saturday Night Live on May 8, and she'll guest star on the season finale of the ABC comedy The Middle in May.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rate Roulette

Are You Gambling With Your Car Insurance Rate?

What is Rate Roulette?

Roulette is a popular casino game in which players gamble on where a ball will land on a spinning wheel marked with a range of numbers. As long as you play within your limit, the game can be fun, even though the odds are stacked against you picking the winning number. Rate Roulette is a game played by drivers who gamble they will find the lowest rate on their car insurance by sticking with a single insurance company. The difference? Most drivers don't even realize they are playing and gambling with their car insurance rate in the first place, mistakenly figuring they've already picked the lowest rate with their current insurer.

What Are My Chances Of Finding The Lowest Rate?

The odds against you picking the winning number on a single spin of the Roulette wheel are 37 to 1. Sadly, the odds against a driver picking the insurance company with the lowest insurance rate for their profile aren't much better. Why? Because there are over 30 insurance companies to choose from and the rates each of them charge to insure the same driver, with the same car, for the same coverage, can vary by hundreds and even thousands of dollars. Take a look at the table below.

The only way to ensure you pick a winner at Rate Roulette is to play the whole table...and the only way to do that is to SHOP AROUND for the lowest rate. This is where InsuranceHotline.com can help by instantly providing quotes from over 30 insurance companies to find you the lowest rate available – and the service is absolutely FREE to use. It's like gambling without putting up any of your own money!

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By contrast, most websites offering to "compare insurance quotes" are owned by or affiliated with insurance brokers or agents and are therefore only capable of quoting rates from the limited number of insurance companies they represent, typically no more than 4 or 5.

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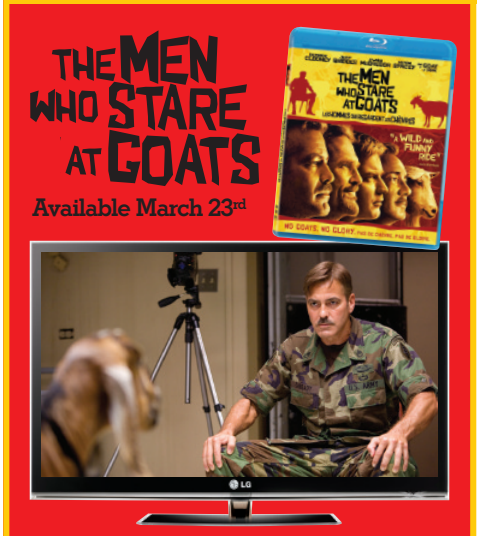

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Winfrey to defend defamation

Oprah Winfrey

LEGAL A federal judge says Oprah Winfrey must defend a defamation suit filed by the former headmistress of her girls' school in South Africa.

The case is now set for trial March 29 in Philadelphia.

Judge Eduardo Robreno refused to dismiss the suit in a decision Monday.

He says former headmistress Nomvuyo Mzamane has enough evidence to pursue claims Winfrey defamed her.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Record-breaking deal

Jackson's $200 million recording contract

The estate of Michael Jackson has landed the late King of Pop the biggest recording deal in history: a $200 million guaranteed contract with Sony Music Entertainment for 10 projects over seven years, according to a person familiar with the deal.

The record-breaking contract through 2017 could be worth up to $250 million if certain conditions are met. One of the albums will be of never-before-released Jackson recordings that will come out in November, the person said.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the official announcement is expected Tuesday.

Future projects may also include a DVD compilation of videos and a re-release of Off the Wall, Jackson's fifth studio album, which first came out in 1979, accompanied by some unreleased material. Before his sudden death in June at age 50, the pop star had wanted to re-issue the album, people familiar with the deal said.

One of the projects already counted in the contract was the two-disc album that accompanied This Is It, the film based on footage of concert rehearsals for what was to have been Jackson's comeback at London's O2 arena.

Including the more than five million copies of that special release, Jackson has sold some 31 million albums since his death in June.

"During his life, Michael's contracts set the standard for the industry," said John Branca, the co-administrator of the Jackson estate, in a statement prepared for release Tuesday. "This agreement with Sony Music demonstrates the lasting power of Michael's music by exceeding all previous industry benchmarks."

"This agreement with Sony Music demonstrates the lasting power of Michael's music by exceeding all previous industry benchmarks."

John Branca, co-administrator of Jackson estate

Michael Jackson, right.

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TO	Vu	SD	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
3/17/10 primetime	265	353	2	TVO	Meerkat Manor	Meerkat Manor	The Agenda With Steve Paikin		The Fixer (Part 5 of 6)		Human Edge (N)		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Bones		Kitchen Nightmares (N)		Melrose Place (N)		News Hour
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Office	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)		Vivere V	Omni News:	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dragons' Den (N)		Republic of Doyle (DVS)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: Special Victims		Mercy (HDTV) (N)		Modern Family	Cougar Town	(10:01) Ugly Betty (N)		News
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Access H.	Criminal Minds (N)		American Idol		CSI: NY (HDTV)		CTV News
	218	345	11	CHCH	*Love Don't Cost a Thing* ★★ (2003)			*Stealing Harvard* ★ (2002, Comedy) Jason Lee, Tom Green, Leslie Mann.					News at 11 (N)
	-	-	14	-	Family Guy	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King/Queens	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	George Lopez	The Insider (N)	*National Lampoon's European Vacation* (1985, Comedy)				The Insider	Hitchcock Pres	Becker
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Access H.	Old Christine	Unmarried	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: NY (HDTV)		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17	NBC	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Mercy (HDTV) (N)		Law & Order: Special Victims		Law & Order: Special Victims		News
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Scrubs	The Middle	Modern Family	Cougar Town	(10:01) Ugly Betty (N)		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N)	America's Next Top Model "Dreckitude!"			Look-A-Like	The Listener (DVS)		A News
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Human Target "Baptiste"		American Idol		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	PBS NewsHour	Wait for God	Andre Rieu Live in Dresden: Wedding at the Opera				Priests in Concert at Liverpool Metropolitan		
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	America's Next Top Model "Dreckitude!"			High Society	PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Law & Order: Special Victims		WBZ News (N)	What's-Store	Frasier	Frasier	The Office
	298	653	332	TLA	The Tyra Show		According-Jim	Family Guy	KTLA News	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Top Model
news	502	390	26	NW	The Lang & O'Leary Exchange		Connect with Mark Kelley (N)		CBC News: The National		Geologic Journey Hurricanes.		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report (Live)		American Greed		American Greed (N)		American Greed		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	The Rookies	UEFA Champions League Soccer Bordeaux vs. Olympiacos. (HDTV)					Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	World Series/Poker - Europe		NHL Pregame	NHL Hockey Calgary Flames at Colorado Avalanche. (HDTV) (Live)				
	411	457	58	OLN	Ghost Hunters Academy		Destination Truth		Oper. Repo	Oper. Repo	Ghost Hunters Academy		Destin. Truth
	417	406	81	SC	NASCAR	NASCAR Hub	Racing Chef	NASCAR	Dangerous Drives (HDTV) (N)		Pass Time (N)	Pass Time (N)	Pass Time
family	551	542	25	YTV	iCarly	That's-Weird	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Simple Rules	What I Like	Family Biz	To Be Indie	Prank Patrol
	554	544	45	TEL	*Arthur and the Invisibles* ★★ (2006, Fantasy)				Futurama	King of the Hill	American Dad	Futurama	Robot Chicken
	556	540	51	FAM	Suite/Deck	Suite Life	Sonny Chance	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Supernanny		Grocery Bag	Grocery Bag	Grocery Bag	The Restaurant	*Plain Truth* (2004, Drama) Mariska Hargitay.		
	570	580	29	MM	America's Best Dance Crew		disBAND	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	My Date With...	My Date With...	UR11
	615	520	31	A&E	Criminal Minds "P911"		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter	Exterminator	Exterminator
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Mogli a Pezzi				George Lopez	George Lopez	Lopez Tonight
	571	581	36	MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		mmtop10.ca		Gene Simmons Family Jewels		Gene Simmons
	575	583	38	CMT	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Reba	Reba	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Due South
	616	521	39	SHO	Relic Hunter		*Maternal Obsession* (2008, Suspense) Nichollte Tom.				HawthoRNe (HDTV)		NCIS
	620	523	40	BVO	Irish Music	Bravo!Videos	Arts & Minds	Wingfield	Celtic Woman: Songs-Heart		White Collar		Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Rich Bride Poor Bride		End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	Ice Pilots NWT (HDTV)		Nostradamus Effect		Ice Road Truckers		Ice Pilots NWT (HDTV)		Re-Inventors
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Lucky Louie	Hot Box	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Agent-Agent	Real Estate	Property Virgin	Unsellables	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	Law & Order: Special Victims		SEC Postseason Preview		Seinfeld	Name Is Earl	*Band Camp*
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Juwanna Mann* ★ (2002, Comedy) Miguel A. Núñez. Jr..				Keyshia Cole: The Way It Is		Mo'Nique
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Chuck (HDTV) (N)		Supernatural (HDTV)		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	Peak Season	Cribs	Cribs	Parent Control	The Real World		The Real World (N)		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Dog Whisperer		Hoarders		Hoarders "Tara; Betty"		Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Spoiled Rotten
	603	561	56	FOOD	Ricardo	Fresh-Anna	Challenge		Iron Chef America		Chopped		Restaurant
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		No Place Like	Open All Hours	*Doc Martin* (2003, Comedy) Martin Clunes, Barbara Lott.				Poltergeist
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		The View (HDTV) (N)		The Dr. Oz Show (N)		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Night Garden	Waybuloo	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Bucket-Dinos	Little Bear	Toopy & Binoo	Max & Ruby
	526	507	249	VIVA	Cold Case "Devil Music"		Missing (Part 1 of 2)		The Closer		Cold Case "Devil Music"		Mediums
	300	601	301	M1	(7:15) *Nurse.Fighter.Boy* (2008, Drama) Clark Johnson.				*Observe and Report* ★★ (2009, Comedy)			*Semi-Pro* (2008, Comedy)	
	305	612	306	PIX	*Perfectly Normal* ★★ (1991, Comedy) Robbie Coltrane.				*The Blair Witch Project* (1999, Horror)			*Book of Shadows*	
	520	146	-	DISC	Daily Planet (N)		The Colony "Exodus" (N)		Howe & Howe Tech (N)		Solving History-Olly Steeds		Daily Planet
	637	-	-	TVLND	Red Green	Red Green	Fantasy Island		Hart to Hart		Andy Griffith	Phil Silvers	Bizarre
	605	-	-	FASH	America's Next Top Model		FashionTele	RAW	FT Found Footage		RAW	RAW	RAW

Banished to the TV room
Kate Gosselin's big Dancing with the Stars debut is sure to draw a whole lot of eyes, but unfortunately for Jon, he'll have to watch her from home. Kate has essentially banned Jon from attending any tapings, popeater.com reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

A real American hero?

WOULD YOU TRUST THIS MAN WITH KEYS TO AN ARMOURY? Spencer Pratt announced this week he's fleeing The Hills for a job at American Defense Enterprises, a self-defense company that offers "world-class training in the entire spectrum of small arms weaponry."

The reality star told People he discovered a new passion in life, working for the Los Angeles-based company in their cyber security division.

To those thinking this was another one of Pratt's media "gotchas," well, you'd be wrong.

PopEater spoke with Pratt's new boss, A.D.E. head Bill Beasley, who insists the 26-year-old star is sincere and determined to "help do something good for a change."

Contrary to reports, the Hills star is not leaving his hit MTV show, a source tells us-magazine.com.

"All of that stuff about him leaving The Hills to fight cyber crime is not true," the insider insists.

The real story?

"He is leaving The Hills for six weeks because he was asked to."

The source explains that Pratt, 26, recently "flipped out" on the show's set after a female producer made a request to which he objected.

"Very rattled" by Pratt's outburst, the producer filed a complaint with the show's top producers — who then threatened to kick Pratt off the show.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

She doesn't take any flack

THE GIRL'S GOT GRIT Poison singer Bret Michaels — who has collaborated with the Miley Cyrus on their new single Nothing to Lose — is in awe of the 17-year-old singer-and-actress because she stands up for what she believes in.

He said: "Does she stir s— up? No. What I think that she does is she doesn't take any s—. I love that about her. I've seen it.

"I've seen people come at her, come at me, and we're both the same. I set them straight," he said. "A lot of times when you live in that Hollywood limelight, speaking your piece or doing your thing is organic and more controversial than people trying to be controversial."

Discussing whether or not Cyrus likes to create scandals, he added to America's OK! magazine: "I think the exact opposite … I think she's got a strong backbone."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

The future looks bright

ARE THEY OUT OF THE WOODS? Tiger Woods was spotted with his wife Elin for the first time since his sex scandal broke last November, usmagazine.com reports.

The two were spotted taking a stroll around their Isleworth gated community in Windermere, Fla., Saturday morning.

Walking several feet behind her husband, Elin, 30, wore a Nike bandana. (Interestingly, Nike is the one major sponsor that hasn't dropped Woods.)

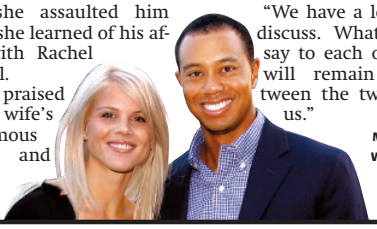
In his hyped-up public apology on Feb. 19, Woods refused to reveal whether he and his wife were splitting.

He also denied rumours that she assaulted him when she learned of his affair with Rachel Uchitel.

He praised his wife's "enormous grace and poise" and said that he and Elin have "started the process of discussing the damage caused by my behaviour … My real apology will not come in the form of words, but my behaviour over time.

"We have a lot to discuss. What we say to each other will remain between the two of us."

METRO WORLD NEWS



They just want her healthy

THAT'S WHY THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT SALES There has been a big debate about whether Gabourey Sidibe's weight will hamper her future career, despite her recent Oscar nomination, popeater.com reports.

Now, one weight loss company has written a letter to the Precious star, telling her she needs to worry about her health — not her image, TMZ reports.

AssaiSupply.com has offered the actress a one-year's supply of their product to help her lose weight.

AssaiSupply's publicist Kevin Blatt tells PopEater, "We have seen a large increase in sales today, but we have not yet heard from Ms. Sidibie. We are really hoping to. We want to help her maintain a healthy lifestyle.

"She has amazing potential, Oprah believes in her, and she could someday be on that stage accepting an Oscar. We can only put it out there for her, we hope she takes us up on our offer."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

The bomb has been diffused

AND FOR ONCE SHE'S NOT TALKING ABOUT HER BODILY FUNCTIONS Continuing to hit back at former boyfriend John Mayer for revealing details about their sex life, Jessica Simpson says gossiping isn't the only dumb thing she's seen Mayer do, people.com reports.

"I thought he was stupid for breaking up with me," Simpson, 29, said on ABC's The View earlier this week.

Asked if she's spoken to Mayer, 32, since he likened her to "sexual napalm in a Playboy interview," Simpson said she hadn't, and then added with a laugh: "And he'll never have this napalm again."

The singer and actress, whose new show The Price of Beauty premiered Monday night on VH1, says she's still feeling the effects of Mayer's comments.

"I'll walk into a restaurant or something, and I notice that more men are looking at me, but I feel like they're undressing me," she says.

"So, it's a little bit embarrassing."

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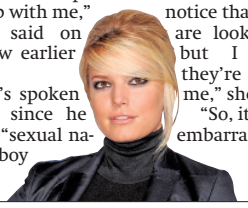


Wanted baby's name to flow

HOW ABOUT CREEK, OR WATERFALL, OR LAGOON? Giselle Bundchen admits she felt like an alien the first time she went to work after her recent pregnancy.

"I got to the studio and I felt like I was E.T. — whoa, what's going on? Hair and makeup? I hadn't looked at myself in a mirror for a month-and-a-half," she tells Vogue.

The supermodel, who says she gave birth to son Benjamin last December, originally wanted to name the baby River.

"I wanted something always flowing, immortal," she says. "My husband said, 'There's no way we're going to call him River.'"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

JORDIN SPARKS doesn't feel very safe, **DANNY DEVITO** is having a rough morning, **JOHN MAYER** is planning for the future, and **NICK CANNON** doesn't appreciate comparisons.

@TheRealJordin This fool driving me to the airport is texting and driving. So NOT okay.
@Danny_DeVito 7:14 stretching. Meditation. Fall off the side of the bed. Crack head on side table. Try to go to the doctor with ice bag disguised as straw hat
@johncmayer If I wanted to make a big impression my first day in prison, I'd walk up and punch the smallest, oldest dude in the face.
@Nick Cannon TMZ put me on Who would you rather with the little dude from Sum41... I don't know how I feel about that LOL

METRO NEWS SERVICES

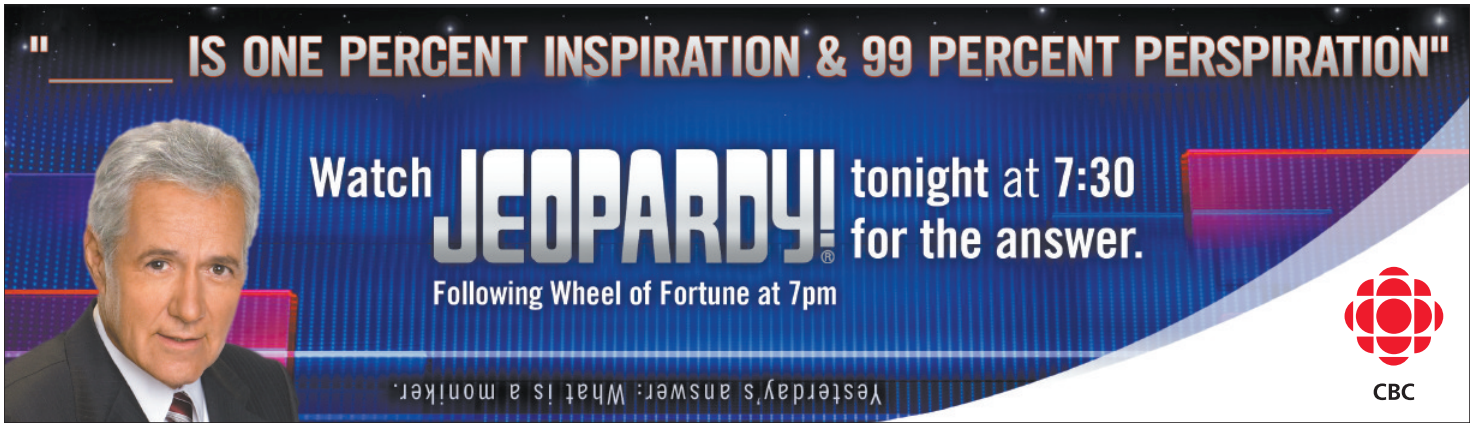
Drew 'basset hound' Barrymore

KINDA HAS A NICE RING TO IT Drew Barrymore insists she has no interest in plastic surgery.

"I'm so curious as to what's going to happen naturally that I can't imagine wanting to alter things just yet," the 35-year-old actress tells the Daily Mail.

"And to all those women putting botulism in their faces — we don't know what the long-term effects are, so stop! I'd rather look like a basset hound than do that to my face."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



The Weather Network ©The Weather Network 2010

Today Sunny 16°/ 3°

Thursday Partly cloudy 15° / 5°

Friday Variable 15°/ 4°

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Take Five

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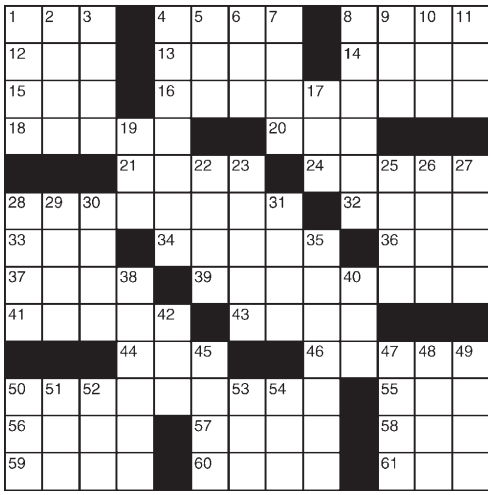

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

8								9
	1		3	8	4		2	
	6						7	
		4	9		3	7		
	2						6	
		6	1		5	3		
	9						4	
	4		2	7	9		5	
1								8

ACROSS

1 Bashful
4 Founder of analytical psychology
8 Possess
12 Verily
13 Somewhere out there
14 Culture medium
15 Zero
16 "Join us"
18 River tributary, often
20 Humor
21 Cronies
24 Starbucks option
28 William Boyd's nom de Westerns
32 Sitarist's rendition
33 Work with
34 Place
36 Brooch
37 Passel
39 Annoying follower
41 "M*A*S*H" setting
43 Knighted woman
44 "CSI" evidence
46 Take as one's own
50 Musicfest
55 Neither mate
56 Genealogy chart
57 — gin fizz
58 Bill's partner
59 Goes off course
60 Probability
61 Actor Ron

DOWN

1 Harmonization
2 Inheritor
3 Ivy League school
4 Dogs' wild kin
5 Venusian vessel?
6 "Platoon" setting, for short
7 Got bigger
8 Summertime garment
9 Past
10 Moving truck
11 Work unit
17 Help
19 Fuel economy org.
22 Mississippi politico Trent
23 "Slammin' Sammy" of golf
25 Mafia boss
26 Not "fer"
27 Phyllis Diller's "husband"
28 Corn coating
29 Norway's capital
30 Juror, in theory
31 Pop singer Lady —
35 Court-case compensation
38 Shims
40 Started
42 Ortiz of "Ugly Betty"
45 Moreover
47 Erstwhile
48 Swimmers' place
49 Helen of —
50 Pigpen
51 401(k) alternative
52 Opposite of 53-Down
53 Opposite of 52-Down
54 Affirmative action?

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

O	P	A	L		U	N	D	O		T	N	T
F	I	N	E		S	E	E	M		E	A	U
T	E	N	N	E	S	S	E	E		N	I	B
			D	A	R	T		L	A	D	L	E
P	E	T	E	R			M	E	R	E		
O	V	E	R		F	L	A	T	I	R	O	N
K	I	N		V	I	A	L	S		I	V	E
E	L	E	G	A	N	C	E		C	Z	A	R
		M	A	C	K			F	I	E	L	D
O	M	E	G	A		S	E	A	R			
B	U	N		T	E	N	T	A	C	L	E	S
E	S	T		E	R	I	N		L	A	N	K
Y	E	S		D	A	T	A		E	D	D	Y

3	5	2	1	4	8	6	7	9
1	9	4	6	5	7	8	3	2
8	7	6	9	3	2	4	5	1
2	1	9	7	8	4	5	6	3
5	8	7	3	6	9	2	1	4
4	6	3	2	1	5	9	8	7
6	3	5	4	9	1	7	2	8
7	4	8	5	2	3	1	9	6
9	2	1	8	7	6	3	4	5

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Chicken with 40 Cloves of Garlic

INGREDIENTS:

2 tsp olive oil
1 lb small white boiling potatoes
3 celery stalks, thickly sliced
2 carrots, halved lengthwise and cut into 1 1/2-in. pieces
40 garlic cloves, unpeeled
3/4 tsp tarragon
1/2 tsp rosemary, minced
3/4 tsp salt
1 cup chicken broth
1/2 cup dry vermouth
4 boneless, skinless chicken thighs
1/4 cup chopped parsley

METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C). Combine oil, potatoes, celery, carrots, garlic, tarragon, rosemary and salt in Dutch oven or flameproof casserole. Toss to combine.

2. Add broth and vermouth to pan and bring to boil over medium heat. Reduce to simmer, cover and cook 10 minutes.

3. Add chicken, cover and place in oven. Bake until chicken is cooked through and potatoes and garlic are tender, 30 minutes. Stir in parsley just before serving

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Stick to what you know and trust. Changing fashions can be seductive but just because there is a new way of doing things does not mean it will be better.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
There are some things you must never reveal about yourself, no matter how tempted you may be to come clean and hope that others understand.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
There is a magnetic quality to your personality that will attract good things to you today — along with one or two bad things as well.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
As a cardinal sign you are rarely happy with a mid-level position. You were born for life at the top and you won't rest until you are Number One.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
You may have tried something and failed a dozen times before but this time you are going to get it right. This time you can't lose.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
The best way to deal with a difficult situation is to pretend it does not exist. This is one of those times when, by focusing on something, you give it power.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
If you feel trapped by a relationship, try mentioning that you need more time to yourself. If you say it the right way chances are they will understand.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Let others lead the way and make suggestions, but don't let them use you as a guinea pig. If there is something risky they want to try let them go first.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
You should be feeling both more relaxed and more affectionate now. If not, don't worry, because the good times will begin soon.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Sometimes you can be too suspicious, so give friends and relatives the benefit of the doubt today. It's nicer for them and nicer for you.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
The more friends and work colleagues try to press you to follow a certain path the more you will enjoy following a different path entirely.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
There is no point being too serious today. With the Sun in your sign forming a major union with Uranus, you really have nothing to worry about.

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This day in history

1756: Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated in New York City for the first time (at the Crown and Thistle Tavern).
1845: The rubber band is patented.
1942: Holocaust: The first Jews from the Lviv Ghetto are gassed at the Belzec death camp (eastern Poland).
1948: Benelux, France, and the United Kingdom sign the Treaty of Brussels, a precursor to the North Atlantic Treaty establishing NATO.
1969 : Golda Meir becomes the first female Prime Minister of Israel.
2008 : New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer resigns after a scandal involving a high-end prostitute.

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Developing Overseas Markets • Enhanced Work-Sharing

Support for Forestry, Agriculture and Fisheries • Lower Taxes

Clean Energy • Apprenticeship Completion Grant

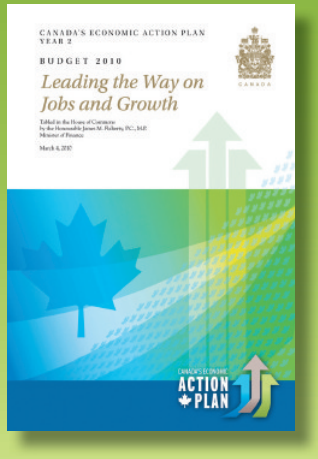
Rebuilding Transportation Infrastructure

Strengthening Business through Innovation • Genomics

Rural Development • Space Technology • Increased EI Benefits

• Robotics

JOBS & GROWTH



What it's all about!

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Canada

Budget measures are subject to parliamentary approval.

Home can be in the middle of the Yukon.

Home can be pulling off the side of the road, just to see the sunset.

Home can be listening to your favourite song, in a snow storm.

Home can be just outside a coffee shop in Vancouver.

Home can be looking for the North Star out the panoramic sunroof.

Home can be going over the river to grandmother's house.

Home can be wherever you make it.

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